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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered the military and police to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf.

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Members of a fraternity at the University of the Philippines held their annual ritual of running naked on campus six months early.

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Here's a news flash: The Rock is no more.

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"The root of this is the economy and part of the fallout, people leaving."
—Tim Goodwin of Pacific Rim International

AS GAS, UTILITY, COMMODITY PRICES RISE

Islands' rental prices dropping

A commercial building on Middle Road advertises free rent as many landlords on Saipan lower rent to attract customers.
STEFAN SEBASTIAN

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Saipan's ongoing economic downturn is prompting scores of local landlords to drop prices in a bid to stand out among the hundreds of starkly vacant rental properties available on the island.

The decline in rental prices is visible every day in housing advertisements and appears to have even prompted one

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Bail denied for Miura

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Miura

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday denied Kazuyoshi Miura's request to let him out on bail.

"In my reading of the law, Mr.

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Fitial names Inos to Lizama's post

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday announced the appointment of attorney Perry Inos to serve as associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court.

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FUN IN THE SUN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Donavin, Peyten, Aldayne and Kekoa Lizama spend their summer vacation frolicking In the waters of the Saipan lagoon near Beach Road, Garapan yesterday afternoon.

CUC gets $5 million subsidy for rate discount. **PAGE 3**
New deal to revive Capital Hill microbrewery. **PAGE 5**

Local

Cabrera: CPA status remains under a cloud

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Hopes are bleak that the Commonwealth Ports Authority will see some improvement in its situation when financial reports come out next month.

CPA is expecting delivery of an updated report on its airport revenue bond in late June. Lee Cabrera, acting executive director at CPA, said the report is likely to note a continued failure by the ports authority to meet bond requirements.

"[CPA] anticipates a report that the debt service coverage continues to be deficient and may require additional increases to meet the coverage within a reasonable period," Cabrera said in a report to the Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Legislature.

It has been a month since the governor declared a state of emergency to prevent CPA from defaulting on its airport revenue bond. Under the governor's direct control, CPA has implemented measures to improve CPA's finances. These include raising airport rates, ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas, and imposing cost-cutting measures at CPA.

Ricondo & Associates, which serves as CPA's bond consultant, is now updating its 2006 airport rate report. The work includes reviewing all CPA revenue sources and expense items, which will result in projections of rates for at least five years. The report is due later this month.

CPA is also expecting the draft audit of its fiscal year 2007 financial statements. The audit report, being prepared by Deloitte & Touche, is seen to deliver more bad news for the ports authority. Cabrera said the audit will likely reveal that the debt service ration for the seaport bond will also become deficient.

The Commonwealth's seaport has seen its revenue plunge by 60 percent due to the decline of the garment industry.

According to Cabrera, a negative finding on the seaport revenue bond will require CPA to hire another bond consultant for the $33-million bond and implement rate increases for the Port of Saipan. He said CPA has begun contacting a prospective bond consultant, BST & Associates, for the seaport bond.

A huge portion of the bond was used to complete the $43 million Saipan Harbor Improvement Project. The bond is a separate obligation and indenture.

"The challenges to CPA continue to be tremendous and serious. … [We] continue to need your support in various ways," Cabrera said.

CPA is still under a state of emergency. CPA management reports directly to the governor, as all of the members of the CPA board of directors have resigned.

Sign-maker critiques zoning proposal

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

A proposal to adopt a host of changes to Saipan's zoning laws—which includes a new zone for adult businesses—has prompted criticism from one local sign-maker who says its signage regulations could hinder his business.

The Commonwealth Zoning Board in a sparsely attended June 18 public hearing took comments from local residents on the proposal, unveiled earlier this year, to adjust several key aspects of zoning rules.

Chief among them is a bid to establish a so-called "adult business overlay zone," proposed for Middle Road. The regulations would direct adult businesses like strip clubs, adult bookstores and massage parlors to relocate to the zone within one year.

The zoning office is also taking proposals from the public on the creation of an adult entertainment district, which would concentrate several adult businesses in one area.

Zoning administrator Steve Tilley said the adult business zoning changes would help to ensure Saipan's tourism centers provide a "family friendly" environment.

Yet a less noticed section of the proposal, new regulations on signs, sparked strong criticism from sign-maker Enrico Santos.

"Signs are an issue that's supposed to be left between the building's owner and the tenant," he said during the hearing.

The proposed regulations would demand a certain degree of uniformity in the way signs are designed on Saipan, he added, but many businesses want signs to be eye-catching and different. "The customers want their stores to be attractive, not uniform with other stores on the island,"

Moreover, Santos noted the proposal demands that signs written in two languages would require the English characters to be at least as large as the foreign characters.

Businesses that cater to Korean or Japanese patrons, he said, will want the characters in those languages to be "more emphasized," he said, thereby making the proposed regulations problematic.

The zoning board will discuss the proposed regulations and the comments it has received in a June 26 board meeting.

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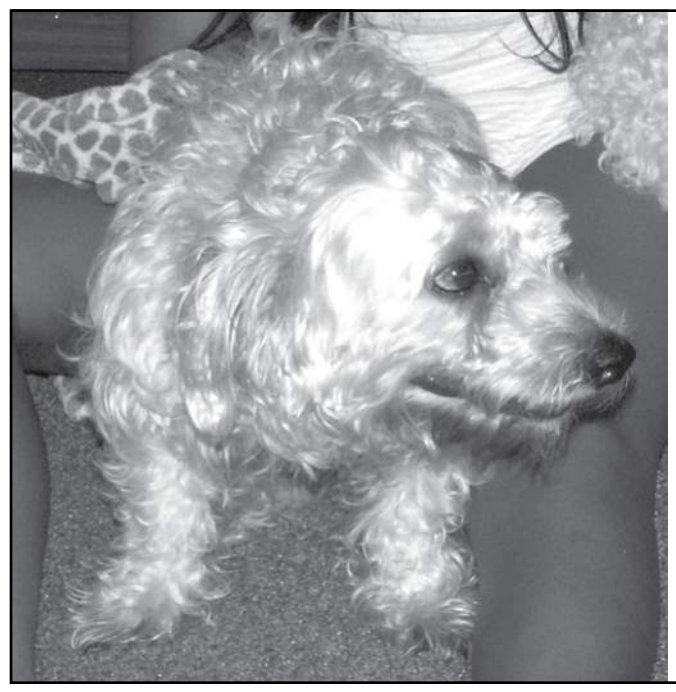

CUC gets $5 million subsidy for rate discount

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has received $5 million from the central government for the planned rate credit.

A law, which allowed CUC to double the rates in May 2008, has reprogrammed $9 million for the relief program. The program, as approved by the House of Representatives, entails taking 30 percent off of residential billings and 10 percent off of commercial billings. The discounts are proposed to apply retroactively beginning May 2008.

Assuming fuel costs remain at their May levels, the $5 million now with CUC would be enough to pay for the discounts through mid-September 2008.

Although the relief will not come from CUC's coffers, CUC executive director Antonio Muna said the program might prove financially damaging to the utility.

"CUC advises that it agrees with establishing the EFC (electric fuel charge) credit fund and giving relief to CUC customers," Muna said. "However, the fiscal reality is that the CUC received the funding at a time when CUC needed a fiscal subsidy to pay for fuel. Revenues collected in May were for billings in March, while residential EFC rates were still artificially set at 17.6 cents per kWh. The best intentions of the Legislature to give EFC rate relief would further exacerbate CUC's adverse financial condition."

The measure cleared the House of Representatives on Wednesday, and is headed to the Senate for action.

The House, when it passed the bill, ignored another request from Muna. A proposed amendment to allow CUC to change rates in the middle of the billing cycle was eliminated during debate on the House floor.

Muna said this amendment was necessary because CUC's accounting software does not support applying rate changes which will essentially have customers paying different rates. He said that a software reprogramming "is not an easy fix." It may take 180 days to complete and costs money.

Under existing law, CUC cannot charge new rates until after a meter is read. The rationale behind this is that there is no way to tell how much power a customer consumes before and after the rate increase.

But this system also means that if there is a rate increase, those customers whose meters are read first will be paying the new higher rate, while those customers whose meters are read last will continue to pay the lower rate until their meter is read.

According to Muna, the only way CUC could comply with the billing requirement without software changes is to have the meters of its 15,000 customers read all in the same day. But this is not possible, he said.

"CUC proposes that [the billing requirement] be suspended until such time that the reprogramming of CUC accounting software can be funded and accomplished; otherwise, CUC will have to hire enough meter readers to read all meters in one day, plus additional vehicles," he said.

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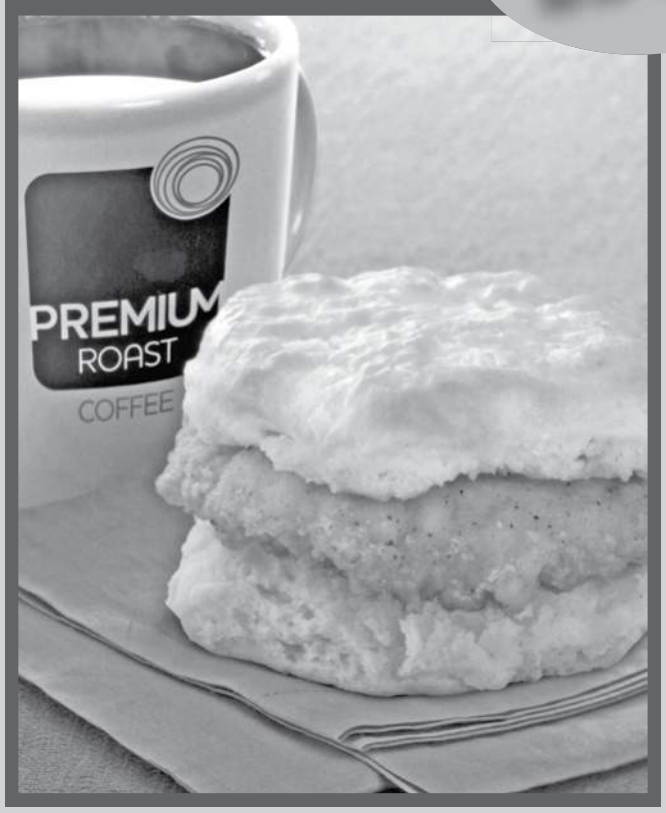

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Family of late teen beauty titlist sue over fatal vehicular smashup

The parents and family members of the late teen beauty titlist Vinae Teofilia Deleon Guerrero have filed a lawsuit for her death in last year's vehicular accident in Gualo Rai.

Nadine and Vicente Deleon Guerrero, parents of Vinae, some family members, and Vinae's estate and heirs sued the driver, Rabiul Islam, Pacific Drilling Ltd., Mid-Pac Micronesia, Bisnes Mami Inc., and 100 unnamed co-defendants.

Islam and the 100 unnamed co-defendants are reportedly employees and agents of Pacific Drilling, Mid-Pac Micronesia, and Bisnis Mami.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Joseph Iacopino and Colin Thompson, sued the defendants for negligence, wrongful death, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The plaintiffs asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay them damages, court costs, and attorneys' fees.

The lawyers stated in the complaint that on May 20, 2007, the defendants were operating a boom truck northbound along Middle Road near the intersection of Espana Street while Vinae was operating a Honda Civic car westbound along Espana Street.

The defendants were allegedly careless in driving the boom truck, preventing them from colliding with Vinae's car.

"As a direct legal result of the negligence, carelessness, recklessness and wrongful conduct of the defendants and each of them, Vinae sustained serious injuries from which she could not survive and, as a result of which, her life ended on May 20, 2007," said the attorneys in the complaint.

The lawyers said the plaintiffs are informed that the defendants allowed the operation of the boom truck with a speedometer and brakes that were not functioning properly.

They said Vinae's mother and minor sister were also traveling on a vehicle on Middle Road approaching the intersection when they saw the boom truck crash into Vinae's car.

In its report after the accident, the Department of Public Safety stated that Vinae was driving her car from Espana Street and had just entered Middle Road when a flatbed truck slammed into her car.

The 17-year-old had just exited Espana Street on board a white 1997 Honda Civic four-door sedan and had entered the highway when a Hino flatbed truck (boom truck) heading north on the inner lane of Middle Road broadsided her car. The truck's driver was Rabiul Islam.

DPS said police and medics extracted Vinae from the car and transported her to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The car sustained extensive damage to the exterior and interior on the left side. The truck had moderate damage to its front portion.

The accident happened in front of Dasom Market, an accident-prone area. The report did not say whether the truck had the right of way.

Vinae, then a junior at the Marianas High School, was adjudged as this year's Miss Marianas Teen First Runner-Up. She was also awarded PTI Texter's Choice, Best in Fun Fashion, and Miss Photogenic. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

LIBERATION STAGE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor's Office staff work on building the stage yesterday in preparation for the annual Liberation Day Parade that will be held on July 4.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wiring theft

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any person(s) responsible for the recent theft of 90 feet of Triplex-brand electrical wiring, which was cut from a power pole in the DanDan village. The incident was reported on June 11, 2008, at 5:39pm and occurred near an abandoned white concrete house.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

Inos will assume the vacancy left by former Judge Juan T. Lizama, who retired last month.

He is the governor's second choice for the job. In a press statement, the Fitial administration said the governor had initially chosen Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory out of five potential appointees. But Gregory declined the appointment.

Fitial expressed faith in Inos, who has been a member of the CNMI Bar Association for 13 years.

"Perry exemplifies the highest standards in integrity, and has significant experience in both the public and the private sectors. I am sure he will be a welcome addition to the bench," said the governor.

Inos' appointment requires Senate consent. If the Senate confirms the nomination, Inos will serve as a judge for six years.

"I appreciate Governor Fitial's confidence and I would be honored to serve our community in this capacity if confirmed by the Senate," Inos said.

Inos has been in private practice since 1997. Before that, he worked as a teacher at Rota High School, student coordinator at the Rota campus of the Northern Marianas College, assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, and associate attorney at the law office of now Supreme Court Justice John A. Manglona.

Inos received his high school diploma from Rota High School in 1983 and graduated with a bachelor's degree, major in business management, from the University of Guam in 1987. He attended the University of New Mexico School of Law and received his law degree in 1994.

He is married to Debra Inos and they have three children. He is the son of Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos and nephew of Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos.

BAIL

From Page 1

Miura is not entitled to bail," said Manglona during the hearing that lasted over an hour. She said she would issue a written order.

William Fitzgerald, one of Miura's lawyers, said they are going to appeal the ruling to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Manglona said she reviewed the CNMI and federal extradition laws, particularly on the issue of granting bail. She said the CNMI extradition law explicitly states that a person is entitled to bail unless the offense that is charged is punishable by death or life imprisonment under the laws of the state in which it was committed.

In this case, she said, Miura is charged with the offense of special circumstances murder and conspiracy to commit murder, which are punishable by life imprisonment or death under California laws.

Manglona said under the majority state courts' views, Miura is mandated to be held without bail because he is charged with a capital offense in an extradition proceeding.

Manglona said she is also aware of the minority state courts' views. The judge noted that in fact all minority case laws recognize that, even in New Jersey, bail is allowed in extradition matters except those punishable by life imprisonment or death.

Manglona set the hearing for Miura's petition for habeas corpus on Sept. 12 at 10am.

In an interview with the media after the hearing, Fitzgerald said they are going to appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court because they believe they have a good reason for the 60-year-old Miura to be released on bail.

Assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. told *Saipan Tribune* that they already expected Manglona's ruling.

"We felt the case law was very clear that he was not entitled to bail. So we weren't surprised," Warfield said.

At the hearing, Fitzgerald opened his argument with a federal court ruling that states, "In our society liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception."

Fitzgerald said Manglona has the inherent power to grant bail in Miura's case. The lawyer said it is the court's duty to inquire about the impropriety of Miura's detention.

"This is not the usual extradition case!" Fitzgerald pointed out, adding that the normal extradition case is when a person is running away.

"That's not the situation we have here," said Fitzgerald, citing some background of the case.

Manglona interrupted the lawyer and told him to focus on the extradition matter and not on some factual issues in '80s.

Fitzgerald continued that when there is a constitutional issue, the judge has a duty to grant bail.

The defense's position is that denial of an opportunity for Miura to obtain bail violates rights provided him under the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions.

In addition to due process rights to liberty, the defense also maintained that Miura is entitled to bail under the "special circumstances" doctrine.

Fitzgerald said it is just a waste of court resources and time when the California court will eventually quash the warrant and dismiss the case.

The lawyer said Miura is not a flight risk and, in fact, contrary to Detective Rick Jackson's affidavit, the businessman went back to California six times after the shooting of his wife in 1981.

"Mr. Miura is suffering in jail. You have the authority to release him with some conditions," Fitzgerald told Manglona, adding that the judge can grant bail under the special circumstances doctrine.

In opposing the motion, AGO's Warfield argued that the CNMI's extradition statute explicitly states that someone who is charged with capital offense is not entitled to bail.

Warfield said once the governor issues a warrant, the asylum state is mandated to turn over the extraditee, particularly when the offense carries a death penalty.

He asserted that this is an extradition case and therefore the extradition law should be followed and not the general bail statute.

The prosecutor described Miura's argument that the law only applies before the governor's issuance of an arrest warrant for extradition as "illogical."

"I believed that it is illogical to think that someone not being entitled to bail before governor's warrant but then after the governor's warrant comes and California sent all the paperwork, suddenly he can make bail. That doesn't makes sense to me and I think the court agreed," Warfield told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked about his client's reaction to Manglona's ruling, Fitzgerald said Miura is in good spirits and is looking forward to the hearing in California regarding his motion to quash the arrest warrant.

"He seems pretty healthy," the lawyer said.

With respect to his meeting with celebrity attorney Mark Geragos, Fitzgerald said he had two nights' meeting with Geragos in the latter's office in California.

"It was great. Very nice guy and great lawyer. He's very optimistic," he said.

ISLANDS

From Page 1

commercial property on Middle Road to advertise "Free Rent"—at least free for the first two months of a one-year lease—in a banner across the front of the building.

Price cuts appear confined for now to the low end of the rental market—where prices in many cases have dropped $200 to $400—while rents on the island's pricier apartments are holding steady, some real estate agents report. However, others note the trend has also emerged in the high-rent residential and commercial sectors.

Landlords attribute the drop to a perfect storm of factors like skyrocketing gas prices, the recent hike in the local minimum wage, mounting utility costs and an exodus of local residents searching for off-island job opportunities as many local businesses fold.

"Rents for everything, commercial property and apartments, are going down," one informed real estate expert on the island said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "All of these factors combined have meant economic suicide."

Projections previously suggested increases in the local minimum wage might have boosted the island's rental market and other segments of the economy over time despite a short-term slump, the expert added. Compounding the wage hike's impact, however, was a rapid jump in the local price of gas that had a "ripple effect" through the economy, resulting in higher costs for consumers and driving many prospective renters to seek cheaper housing.

Statistics on the price drop in rents from the CNMI Department of Commerce are unavailable. The most recent consumer price index data from the department shows a decline in the combined cost of housing and utilities in the Commonwealth by 3.9 percentage points since the fourth quarter of 2007.

Nevertheless, real estate agent Tim Goodwin of Pacific Rim International noted rents on commercial property have dropped after the island's economic downturn left the market "saturated" with vacancies, but rent on the island's upscale properties appears to be "holding firm" for now due to a fairly consistent level of consumer interest. Rents on inexpensive apartments are also down, he said, as more and more people leave, fueling a strong "renter's market."

"The root of this is the economy and part of the fallout, people leaving," Goodwin added, a point upon which several other real estate agents agreed.

In spite of the price drop, the prospects in Saipan's real estate markets still have some rental agents and brokers optimistic that conditions could attract new investors banking that the economy will later revive.

"Now is the right time for people who have the means and the money and want to put in the investment," said Mustafa Shakir, chief of Shakir's Realty, adding that Saipan has seen increasing interest from Korean investors. "In any economy, there's opportunity."

Among his stock of apartments, prices on some two-bedroom units have dropped for the moment, Shakir noted.

Meanwhile, the climbing cost of utilities has many people looking for apartments with electricity, cable and other amenities included in the price before they will sign a one-year lease.

"People are trying to negotiate and they're looking for added benefits," he said. "This is normal in a market where supply is high."

New deal to revive the Capital Hill brewery

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

A Korean corporation is giving new life to Saipan's only microbrewery with a lease that will jumpstart a plan to market several local brands of beer on the island and overseas.

The Sin Ho Corporation in April finalized a five-year lease of the Brewhouse—a now idle microbrewery on Capital Hill that shut its doors several years ago amid financial trouble—with plans to revive the operation, according to brewery manager Heinz Staffler.

"I'm from Europe, and in Europe we know beer," said Staffler, an Austrian. "And what we're going to brew here is real beer."

The corporation's lease of the Brewhouse comes as wheat beers have emerged as a trendy drink of choice at bars in Korea. To capitalize on this, the brewery already has a major standing order to export wheat beer there in kegs.

"As of right now, we're almost ready to brew," Staffler said, adding he is hoping to begin production later this year, perhaps as early as September.

Before the brewing begins, however, the Brewhouse is seeing a minor facelift to get the building ready. Malted barley is also being bought and shipped to Saipan, a task complicated by a worldwide shortage, and an experienced brewmeister from Munich, Tobias Hess, is en route to the island.

Equally important is what to name the beer. Staffler said the brewery plans to hold a naming contest in the coming months with the help of the popular Garapan nightspot Godfather's.

"Locals should be proud that there will be a local beer, and we're trying to give it a local name," Staffler said.

In addition to brewing wheat beer, the Brewhouse is poised to produce at least four other brands for marketing on Saipan and Guam. One is a lager, to be accompanied by a light version. The brewery also plans two European-style beers and some seasonal beers such as stout.

STEFAN SEBASTIAN
The Brewhouse, Saipan's only microbrewery, is preparing to begin brewing once again thanks to a new lease by a Korean corporation.

House gives retirement bill a second pass

The House of Representatives has passed a new version of a vetoed bill on disability retirement.

The House members approved on Wednesday a bill streamlining the application process for claiming disability retirement.

Under the bill, a member of the NMI Retirement Fund will need certification from two physicians, including one specialist, that he or she is totally and permanently disabled due to physical or mental incapacitation.

Currently, certification is required from two physicians and a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Proponents of the bill have said these requirements are too difficult to meet. They have argued that counselors at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation lack medical and psychiatric expertise or credentials to issue disability certifications. And this situation has created a hardship for OVR, for the retirees, and for the Retirement Fund.

The Senate must approve the bill before it can be sent to the governor for his signature.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had vetoed a previously passed version of the bill, which required certification from one physician only. The governor said the lenient process proposed by the legislation would expose the Retirement Fund to abuses. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Retired CUC staff, wife indicted for 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A retired Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee and his wife were charged in federal court for selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian.

Oscar M. King, 62, and Guihua Luo King, 33, also known as Mimi, were indicted on charges of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

According to the indictment, on or about April 12, 2008, the defendants conspired to distribute "ice" on Tinian. The two allegedly distributed and possessed 1.5 net grams of "ice."

In yesterday's hearing, Oscar King, who was with counsel Mark Hanson, pleaded not guilty.

Guihua King's arraignment was continued for today following the request of her court-appointed counsel, John Osborn.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the jury trial for Aug. 25, 2008.

Munson set no bail and remanded the defendants to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The King couple have been in detention at the Department of Corrections in Susupe after they were charged in the Superior Court for selling "ice" on Tinian.

Last April, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman unsealed the case against the Kings.

Detective Anthony P. Borja stated in his report that a confidential informant had disclosed on April 11 that he was buying "ice" from the King couple.

Borja said they conducted a buy operation using the confidential informant at the couple's room in Hong Kong apartment.

After the informant bought $30 worth of "ice" from the suspects, Borja said, they arranged for another buy worth $100.

The detective said that on April 12 they served a search warrant at the suspects' apartment room where they seized $5,953 cash and 58 pieces of clear plastic straw filled with "ice."

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BOE decision to revisit principals' authority lauded

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Former Teacher Representative Ambrose Bennett has praised the decision of Board of Education to revisit the existing policy on the hiring and firing authority of school principals.

"There has been much concern among teachers over the 'non-renewal' policy governed solely by the principal, with no official checks and balances nor due process. The 'non-renewal without cause' clause in contracts has created a few dictators because it is wrong and it is not aligned with the standards and expectations of academia," Bennett said.

He added there is also a concern among teachers as to how a teacher can be deemed unacceptable and not renewed by one principal yet allowed to transfer to another school.

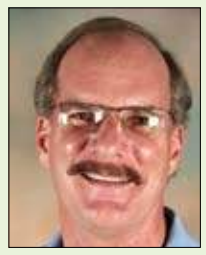
"The teacher is either good or bad but we have created a dichotomy that totally defies the laws of common sense. Yet this is a commonly practiced phenomenon in the CNMI and many times the teachers who transfer are well liked and appreciated by their new principal," Bennett said in a letter to the BOE.

He said that in the five years he served in the BOE, he could not remember a time when principals were ever subjected to scrutiny "even after I had requested for a review of their power to be checked."

"Now it comes to pass again that the Board must follow my suggestion of three or four years ago to shift your focus from the constant scrutiny of teachers being either a good or a bad teacher to [sic] whether the principal is a good or a bad principal," Bennett said.

IConnect offers innovative 3,000-minute cellular plan

A first for the CNMI, IConnect has announced an all-new 3000 minute cellular calling plan that also includes unlimited push-2-talk radio, 180 SMS messages and a free phone—all for only $59 per month. This new plan will be available to customers starting June 17.


Mickelson

"We are very excited to offer this new 3000 minute plan for the CNMI. IConnect delivers super value at very modest pricing," said Hans Mickelson, general manager, IConnect CNMI. "This plan is revolutionary and breaks the standard mold. It's about people communicating and doing business freely without the fear of getting a big bill at the end of each month."

The plan was created to fill the growing demand for this type of communications service in the CNMI, and can be compared to similar options offered by Sprint Nextel in the U. S. where cellular, PTT and SMS messaging is bundled together.

"This is absolutely a great value for $59 per month. Moreover, the plan includes a free i415 handset, our best selling handset. CNMI residents are doing everything they can to stay connected to family and effectively communicate in business," said Matt Giger, IConnect vice president.

The new IConnect plan delivers customers airtime at 2 cents a cellular minute. IConnect has the largest group of push-2-talk users in the region. With this plan, PTT is unlimited and included at no extra charge.

New customers will get a free i415 handset, 3000 minutes of airtime, unlimited push-2-talk radio and 180 SMS messages for only $59 per month, with a 24-month subscription. Existing customers can upgrade to this plan by simply extending their contracts.

Founded in 2000, IConnect Is a wireless communications company specializing in walkie-talkie, radio push-2-Talk services with cellular backup—just like Sprint/Nextel Communication running on an advanced Motorola iden network. IConnect has played an integral part in the development of emergency services and first responder communications in the region. ***(iConnect)***

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iCONNECT

Hearing set on target shooting resorts projects

The House Standing Committee on Commerce and Tourism chaired by Rep. Joseph C. Reyes will conduct a series of public hearings to receive testimonies for a bill that seeks to allow target shooting resorts on the islands.

House Bill 16-31 will amend the Weapons Control Act to promote and allow resort developments that offer target ranges for competitive rifle competitions and skeet shooting.

The first public hearing is scheduled on Monday, June 19, 2008, at 6pm in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The next one, Saturday, July 12, will be held at 10am at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian.

The public hearing goes to Rota on Saturday, July 26, 2008, at 1pm at the Village Round House in Songsong.

Copies of the legislation may be obtained by sending a request to the Office of Representative Joseph C. Reyes, downloading it at cnmileg.gov.mp, or requesting a digital copy via email to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written testimony on or before the public hearing. Oral testimony will be received during the public hearing.

To submit written testimony prior to the public hearing, drop off or fax the testimony to the Office of Rep. Joseph C. Reyes (664-8838) or mail it to P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950. You can also submit your digital copies to rep.jcreyes@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

'Just 2 percent of CNMI kids get good diet'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only 2 percent of Commonwealth children from ages 6 months to 10 years are getting their share of a proper diet, according to the most recent study conducted by the Division of Public Health with the University of Hawaii.

The Healthy Living in the Pacific Islands, a survey conducted between June and July 2005, surveyed 420 children between the ages of 6 months to 10 years of age across the CNMI. The study aimed to help DPH look at health indicators and nutrition among CNMI children.

DPH Deputy Secretary Lynn Tenorio said the general assessment also indicated that 54 percent of the children surveyed needed dietary improvements, "whether they were eating more than they are supposed to or those who are underweight. And we do have our underweight children as well."

She said the survey also found "an unusually high intake of protein" among CNMI children—the result of eating too much processed foods and not enough vegetables—and "low consumption of fruit."

The study further indicated that of the 420 children surveyed, a huge percentage of them were obese: 25 percent for 2-3 years of age; 26 percent for 4 to 6 years of age; and 45 percent for 4-10 years of age.

Tenorio said in the past, Type 2 diabetes was referred to as "maturity onset diabetes," meaning people get it when they are much older, predominantly 65 to 74 years of age. However, in the CNMI, the youngest person to have ever been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes was 11 years old; among American children, it is approximately 13.5 years of age.

Another study that was conducted was the Project 10 survey, which was done between October 2003 to October 2004.

The study surveyed 453 tenth graders CNMI-wide to examine their risk factors for type 2 diabetes by studying the teenager's body mass index, family history, measuring of blood pressure and glucose, and looking for signs of *acanthosis nigricans*, which is a skin discoloration on the base and back of the neck associated with insulin resistance.

Tenorio said the Project 10 study showed that 78 percent of the respondents reported having family members with diabetes and identified 49.5 percent with *acanthosis nigricans*.

Of the 453 students who participated in the Project 10 study, 442 took part in the measurement phase. Results later showed 60 percent of the students were normal weight; 17 percent, overweight; and 23 percent, obese.

The Project 10 study further indicated that 68 percent reported eating fast foods three to seven days a week; 78 percent reported drinking soft drinks three to seven days a week; and 86 percent reported drinking high sugar drinks three to seven days a week.

Tenorio wishes the CNMI can conduct another Project 10 study or something similar to it to compare and see how the CNMI is doing in its efforts to tackle the issue; however, with "limited resources, it's very difficult."

According to Tenorio, the onset of Type 2 diabetes has been estimated to occur four to seven years before clinical diagnosis.

"People come in complaining that they feel weak and tired, and they don't know why. Some complain of blurred vision only to find out later that they are experiencing uncontrolled diabetes," Tenorio said. "They can have all the signs, but by the time it starts affecting their body physiologically, it could already be anywhere between four to seven years. That's why we felt we needed to find out what the risk factors are so at least those areas you can modify and try to prevent."

DPH has conducted clinical training among its staff to help their patients address their health issues.

The DPH Diabetes Prevention and Control Program partners up with the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Education and Extension Services, the Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network, and Cancer Coalition, among a number of other members and organizations in the community, to raise awareness through various activities such as health fairs, community screenings, fun runs, and nutrition month.

Physical therapist Pam Carhill said making small changes in one's diet could make a difference in those who are in danger of the disease.

"Through small changes, you can beat family history," Carhill said.

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

Editor's Note: The following is CUC's load shedding schedule for June 21 through 27, 2008.

8am - 10am Feeder-2: Second Partial
Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church south to San Jose Intersection

10am - 12pm Kiya-2: Second Partial
Portions of Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

12pm - 2pm Feeder-4: Second Partial
Capitol Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)

2pm - 4pm Feeder-1: Second & Third Partial
99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill
Feeder 3: Laterals
Upper Gualo Rai, Taro Sue, Ace Hardware, Rem Center, PTI, McDonald's, XO Mart, H Mart

4pm - 6pm Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

6pm - 8pm Kiya 1: Second Partial
CPA /Airport, Portions of Koblerville, As Perdido

8pm - 10pm Kiya-4: Second Partial
Mount Carmel and south to Portions of Chalan Kanoa

The first partial in each of the respective Feeder/Kiya could be included on the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. In addition, water and wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages.

CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule. However, it may be modified in future public notices. Please be informed that such schedule may be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. ***(CUC)***

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*See drop box for rules and regulations.
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2 men in theft case are overstayers

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men who were earlier arrested for theft at a restaurant in Susupe allegedly turned out to be overstaying in the CNMI for nearly 10 years now.

Police and Immigration officers are searching again for Ringyin Jin and Xirong Li, who were released from jail last month after being detained for four hours.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that preliminary investigation showed that on May 6, 2008 at 11:48pm, an employee of Kaizoku Restaurant reported a theft of service incident at the establishment. As a result, Jin and Li were arrested.

After being detained at the Department of Corrections for the four-hour holding period, the two Chinese nationals were eventually freed.

While conducting follow-up investigation on the case, investigators learned through the Labor and Immigration Identification Data System that the two men are illegal aliens and that they have overstayed on Saipan for many years.

Ogumoro said the 35-year-old Jin arrived on Saipan in April 1997 and worked as a waiter at Ocean Fever Corp. According to LIIDS records, Jin's contract expired in 1998 and has since had no other record of employment.

The 37-year-old Li arrived on the island in March 1996 and was employed at the now defunct garment manufacturer Winners Corp. as an ironer.

Li's immigration records show that his contract expired in 1997. He has no further employment records elsewhere since then, Ogumoro said.

"Should you have any information regarding the whereabouts of these two illegal aliens, police investigators are asking that you call 911 or the Criminal Investigation Division at 664-9042/45," the DPS spokesperson said.

Ogumoro said that, although police have no records to classify Jin and Li as armed and dangerous, the public is asked not to approach them but to instead contact the police as soon as they are spotted.

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Liberation Day 2008

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 20, 2000

OIA backs CNMI's clamor for direct flights
Pressed by the Commonwealth government's clamor for direct international flights to the island from major Asian cities, the United States Department of the Interior has thrown its support to the CNMI's protest against persistent treatment of Saipan and Guam as co-terminals by Continental Micronesia. Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza assured the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the CNMI government that concerned federal agencies are now working at providing better air transport service to the Northern Marianas.

CDA minimizes loans for laundromats, groceries
There is only one thing you should remember if you are looking at launching a business venture and you intend to secure loans from the Commonwealth Development Authority for startup capital: "Submit fresh business ideas." Marylou S. Ada, CDA executive director, said the government-controlled lending agency has taken steps to minimize the approval of loan packages intended to finance business ventures that are already crowding the local market.

BOE reviews priorities under FY 2001 budget
The Public School System has conducted minor modifications to its proposed $45 million budget request for FY 2001, reassessing the number of fulltime equivalents it has acquired and released since the start of the ongoing fiscal year. The school system is currently looking into several options, devising some alternatives in case it has to endure another year under a continuing resolution.

June 20, 2001

Education is still first priority, assures Teno
Amid depleting government coffers, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio maintained yesterday that education will continue to be the administration's top priority. Despite a $16 million slash in the Public School System's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2002, the local chief executive assured that he would not hesitate to re-program funds to support education whenever the need arises.

'I will sign stay limit suspension'
The bill suspending the three-year stay limit is virtually assured of passage after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said that he will immediately sign the measure as soon as it reaches him. During yesterday's launching of the American Red Cross' annual fundraiser, Tenorio said the bill has not reached his desk yet but he said that as soon as the Senate hands over the bill to him, he will sign it forthwith.

Revenue report out next month
Government finance managers are expected to submit a comprehensive revenue projection report next month, to pacify concerns on the Administration's ability to meet the projected $239 million revenues for Fiscal Year 2002. Legislators have asked administration officials to immediately launch a study that would determine if the local economy can sustain the government's anticipated $239-million operational expenses in the next financial year.

June 20, 2002

Babauta unveils educational plan
With the goal of becoming the best educated people in the Pacific, the Babauta administration yesterday unveiled its Education Execellence Initiatives, consisting of five legislative proposals aimed at putting more resources into CNMI classrooms to raise academic performance. Highlights of the initiative include increases in salaries and a tax credit for out-of-pocket expenses for teachers, a pilot program aimed at promoting adolescent health, a requirement for universal kindergarten, and establishment of a charter school system that would allow existing public schools to become independent of the Public School System.

HANMI seeks representation on tourism task forces, talks
Branding Managaha Island as the Commonwealth's top recreational attraction, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands expressed serious concern over the recent bacterial contamination of its waters and the continuing erosion of Saipan's beaches. This, as the hotel association offered its help to solving these problems, which, it said, would have adverse impacts on the tourism industry.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The sky's the limit

Skyrocketing fuel prices have pushed the financially challenged aviation industry to come up with novel and annoying ways to shake more change out of the pockets of cash-strapped and stressed-out passengers. Want some water? Pay extra. Want headphones? Pay extra. Want some peanuts? Pay extra. The latest nickel-and-diming is the announcement by United Airlines, US Airways and American Airlines that they will start charging fees for a first checked bag. This is on top of hitting air travelers with higher fees for second pieces of checked luggage. Why not look under the seat cushions for loose change?

We certainly understand why the airlines are going this route. According to the Air Transport Association, the $40 billion spent by the airlines in 2007 on jet fuel will jump this year to $61.2 billion. American Airlines, the originator of the pay-to-check plan, is staring at an expected hike of $2.4 billion over last year. And the high oil prices have forced an already unprofitable industry to take drastic action to raise revenue and cut costs. Making air travelers pay for things they used to get at no charge is just the beginning. Route cancellations have been announced by the major carriers for the fall. United announced this month that it will retire its entire fleet of 737 jets, ground six wide-body 747s and let go up to 1,100 employees. The other airlines are taking similar actions.

The baggage-check fee is bound to add to the unpleasantness of air travel. Passengers have to practically strip to get to the gate. They are crammed onto crowded planes that arrive late and don't leave on time. They wait at the luggage carousels for bags that have been lost or damaged. And now those travelers, desperate to get on or off a plane, will have to stand by with diminishing patience as someone down the aisle attempts to save $15 by stuffing a washing machine into the overhead bin.

In the 2004 cinematic flop "Soul Plane," passengers seated in "low class" had to contend with coin-operated overhead bins and rationed food that was passed from seat to seat under the watchful eye of stern attendants. There were even people standing in the back of the plane hanging onto poles as if they were riding the Red Line during rush hour. Air travel in real life is not THAT bad ... yet.

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Friday in Obama's kind of town, Chicago

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

This is my kind of town, Chicago is ... The Wrigley building, Chicago is the Union stockyard, Chicago is one town that won't let you down. It's my kind of town. Thus, crooned Sinatra and Manilow. That was the '60s. The images were proletarian. This city then was known as the Southside of MLK Jr., Jesse Jackson, Saul Alinsky's social lab, the Black Panthers and the raised clenched fist, and the bohemian hangout at the University of Chicago and the U of I in Chicago. Daley family defined local politics.

Then Uptown took on the earmark of the middle/upper-class of the world having come to stay. There were 42 languages spoken and taught at the Truman Community College in the late '70s. But Chicago was also the Magnificent Mile, which is glitterati Michigan Ave. by the Park. It was also the Gold Coast, the stylish *nouveau riche* home by the lakeshore, and inland, the reactive Aryans and Caucasoids by Pulaski.

This city was "home" in the decade between the '70s and the '80s. I had not been to the windy city since, and this time, I am visiting family—first, my eldest daughter, hubby and my grandson (Vergara-Campbell) in the luxurious The Lake dwellings in Schaumburg, Illinois, northwest of O'Hare International Airport, and a stone's throw away from the International Village (lots of south and far east-Asian cyber experts—was expecting a bumper sticker that read: I Brake for Alien Techies!) abut the Motorola Corporate Headquarters. The surrounding environment is Beamer upscale, IKEA contemporary and CostCo affordable.

Second object of visit also is my adopted Saipan family (Con-ui/Yohannan) who are in the process of moving to the Chicago's northwest-side around the Milwaukee-Addison-Belmont neighborhood, if it proves to be a viable home for the family. Once haven to eastern European immigrants, the area around the historic landmark Carl Schurz High School is now *pueblo* to many whose heritage is traceable to Iberia and the practices, albeit, less chivalrous, chronicled by Cervantes in *Don Quixote de la Mancha* and his Sancho Pancha.

This June day of 2008, gearing up to the U.S. presidential election in America, Chicago remains Barrack Hussein Obama's kind of town, definitely progressive and ever the can-do optimism that Obama shares with his erstwhile rival, and now ally, Hillary Rodham Clinton. A walk around Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue reflects a city that does not hesitate to confront the reality of its diversity, and lift it up for artful celebration. The park sits next to the famed Art Institute of Chicago and sections of it has been adopted by some of the city's corporate offices.

The Cloud Gate of the AT&T Plaza consists of two boxed tower fountains, water cascading on the side with rectangular blocks embedded with digital chips which together shows pictures of representatives of Chicago's racial mosaic, and on interval, the mouths of the images facing each other would turn into a water spout and shoot water to the glee of playful adults and screaming children, flirting youth and swooning young adults of all three genders who do not hesitate this late spring day to get wet under the sun.

A few meters toward the lake is the massive Pritzker Pavilion that this Friday has Chicago's Fifth Ensemble singing to the noon crowd. The outdoor concert hall sports the latest in sound management designed to please an audience in a semicircle grandstand seats elongated by a grassy knoll where concertgoers can spread their picnic blankets and lazily lounge consuming their seasonal fruits and Wisconsin cheeses washed down by their Merlots and Zinfandels from far away lands from where some of them came from.

Astride the Crown Plaza is a reflective and shiny liver shape sculpture displayed like an artifact on a pedestal that the natives endearingly refer to as the "Bean," where any given day, the baby stroller brigade parade as digital cameras capture their images reflected by the sculpture's sheen.

Further north on Lincoln Park is the city Zoo and the city's famous botanical garden. The Zoo is managed by the Chicago Zoological Society, which also manages Brookefield Zoo further west of the City. The Lincoln Park serves the rapid transit arriving crowd from its urban sprawl, and is funded from the public coffers. Entrance to the place is free, though the cost of parking can easily mean parting with a Jackson, or two, if one adds the cost of fuel. On the other hand, Brookefield serves the dwellers of suburban DuPage and Cook Counties, and is driven by membership patronage. A sprawling conservation park where the animals are not "caged" reflects the latest in zoo management thinking, encouraged by Jane Goodard's respectful stance towards the object of her research.

Here in the city's parks, zoos and gardens walks a grateful humanity from all corners of the world seemingly satisfied and fulfilled for just being alive, exemplifying with their daily existence and lifestyle Obama's "audacity of hope."

Indeed, this is a celebration of life with a big INSPITE OF and NEVERTHELESS, for the news this day included the 27th victim this year of youth homicide in the continuing struggle with street

See FRIDAY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

WWII and a jazz singer, too

ON THE NET

- Shoestring productions: www.shoestringprod.org/interface
- Miss Emily Anne: www.myspace.com/missemilyannesgigs

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

World War II still hangs over Saipan like a spirit. It probably always will. If you've ever poked your nose into the war's history, you'll have noted that the great battle of Midway (1942) is often considered the turning point of the Pacific theater, since it thwarted the menacing momentum of the Japanese fleet. Had it not been for the American victory in that case, there may never have been a battle of Saipan (1944).

A big deal with the battle of Midway is the fact that U.S. had broken the Japanese radio code (known as JN-25), and thus knew what the Japanese were up to. Just as levers move levers, it's possible that the code-breakers won the Pacific theater, in a sense, given that breaking JN-25 might have meant the difference between whipping the Japanese at Midway, or succumbing to their momentum.

Meanwhile, I guess that code-breaking isn't a glamorous cinematic draw, so pop-culture doesn't seem to have given these guys their due. Or, if it did, I missed it.

Until now.

A veteran of WWII, a naval officer who saw action in proximate waters and who was wounded in the battle of Okinawa, sent me a DVD titled *At the Interface: The WWII Recollections of Donald M. Showers*. It's basically an interview/documentary, it's 41 minutes long, and was produced by Shoestring Productions.

Shoestring can describe it better than I can, so here's a quote from their web site:

"Ensign Donald M. Showers was assigned to the top secret Naval Intelligence Center station in Hawaii (codenamed Station HYPO) that was tasked with breaking the Japanese operational codes. Here he relates his first hand experiences as part of the team that intercepted and decrypted the Japanese messages leading to a strategic victory in the Battle of the Coral Sea and a decisive rout of the Japanese at Midway Island a month later. Showers was also involved in planning the air mission in which Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was killed and describes the decision making that led to this mission.

"Showers describes the personalities and roles of the important players: Chester Nimitz, Edwin Layton, Joseph Rochefort and Jasper Holmes. He provides a first hand account of the development of the deception, devised by Holmes, that revealed that the secret location for the major Japanese offensive in June 1942 was Midway Island!"

It's a fascinating video, very well-produced, and a great first-hand account of one of history's most important, and intriguing, events. Though you know who won the war, of course, there's a bit of a surprise ending to the video, namely, how these heroes were treated by the higher-ups in Washington.

And, yes, Saipan is mentioned a time or two in the video, which also has some historical highlights beyond the Midway battle.

Shoestring advises me that their price is $20.25 including shipping. Their address is 5873 Menorca Drive, San Diego, CA 92124. Phone: (858) 405-6038. I'll also post a web link at SaipanBlog.com.

■■■

While we're in the audio-video mode, I'll mention a gutsy young lady, "Miss Emily Anne," who cast caution aside, followed her dream, and thus went to the big city (San Francisco) to become a professional singer. Long odds, those. But she formed her own jazz band, has a growing following, and is a budding success story. She's got an interesting sound which can be tasted at her web site, which I'll also link to at SaipanBlog.com.

Though she has no ties to Saipan, her web presence is a perfect example of the theme covered by *The Long Tail*, a book I reviewed in this space on May 23.

Outside development aid

By DAVID KHORRAM
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute and the author of the book, World Peace, a Blind Wife, and Gecko Tails. *Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com.*

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I had a chance to sit down recently with a surgeon who spent a year volunteering with a well-known international aid organization in an African country. He was part of a three-member team that consisted of a surgeon, an anesthesiologist, and an operating room nurse. The project aimed to identify local people who would spend a year with them, get trained in how to be a surgeon, an anesthesiologist, and an OR nurse, and then head back into their provinces to provide service. The aid organization sent 21 of these teams throughout the country. Ideally, by the end of the year, there would be 21 local teams prepared to provide services to their people.

The surgeon had planned on spending his life doing humanitarian surgery. But his experience so disillusioned him that he's taken a break from pursuing that as a career.

He told me about how much difficulty he had when he was applying to various international agencies. He was offering his life to them, for free, and only one agency could accommodate him.

He told me that throughout his assigned country, there were many international aid organizations, all in competition with one another, refusing to cooperate or pool their resources. The agencies were more concerned with making their annual reports look good and getting more funding than making sure their work actually made a difference.

He told me that the organization he worked for failed to take the local situation into account. They sent these fancy autoclaves to sterilize instruments—fancy because they had microprocessors with them to control the sterilization process. But the chips were set for sea level, not for the elevation of the country, so they were useless. It would have been better to simply send pots and teach the staff how to sterilize their instruments by boiling them, because that technology would always be available and repairable.

He told me that they used sutures at the central training hospital that would never be available in the provinces.

A year after his departure, of the 21 teams that were trained, only three were still functioning. That's better than nothing, but it doesn't make for a success story, especially considering the talent and dedication that poured in through the volunteer surgeons, anesthetists and nurses, who gave a year of their lives for this project.

It again points out the need for development projects to be decided locally, on the ground. For people to become empowered to identify their own problems and create their own solutions and seek the assistance they need. Development projects imposed from the outside are simply folly.

NMI Museum: Worth nine hours of CUC operations

By ROBERT HUNTER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I attended the forum on public utilities held on Tuesday, June 17, at the Multi-Purpose Center. Thank you to the coordinators of the event and to all of the attendees. I believe that the involvement of citizens in their governance, beyond just the election process, is important to a strong democracy and to improving public services.

A comment that did not speak directly to the provision of public utilities but was directed at the NMI Museum and the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture was made by Mr. Curt Klemstein at the forum. Mr. Klemstein's specific statement was "we don't need the Arts Council or the Museum."

Although the forum was not the appropriate venue for a response to his statement, as the former executive director of the CCAC and the present executive director of the NMI Museum, and as his comment was proffered before a significant audience, I feel a public response is appropriate.

If the point Mr. Klemstein may have been trying to make was the necessity to reduce government spending in general, then I generally agree with him. It is important, however, that such actions be considered thoughtfully and intelligently, and as the product of a comprehensive review of all of the programs and services of the government. Our elected leaders and the community should certainly make determinations as to what services are important to them. Knee-jerk witch-hunts, however, are usually counterproductive.

The fact is, the CCAC receives more in federal and other grant monies than it gets through its local budget. The Commonwealth would be losing money if they were to be closed down. The CCAC brings in a quarter of a million dollars a year in direct federal funding, plus additional funds through specific programs with other organizations. Although I left the CCAC some years ago, I do still believe this is the case. Aside from those outside funds brought into the CNMI directly, there are the indirect economic, social and cultural benefits that come from its programs. The Flame Tree Arts Festival, for example, draws artists from throughout Micronesia, who spend at our stores and hotels. It also draws significant publicity and off-island visitors. Talk to some of the hotel managers during the Festival and most note a large increase in occupancy during the Festival dates, with many hotels booked solid.

The NMI Museum is by law the repository of all of the historic objects of the CNMI, charged with their preservation, management and maintenance. In addition to its primary function of the management of this ever-growing collection of documents, textiles, photographs and objects, we carry out school programs, we maintain a gallery and small gift shop, we see thousands of primary and secondary students per year, and provide assistance to a variety of Northern Marianas College classes, and CNMI students abroad. The NMI Museum sees researchers on a regular basis, from Guam, Japan, Australia, Korea, the mainland United States and Europe. The NMI Museum regularly provides research related to land matters, ammunition depots, chemical storage areas, past commercial activity, and other matters that require research of historic information. The Museum is the end recipient of all of the historic material derived from land surveys and pre-development archaeological work. The Museum also provides an important activity for thousands of our off-island visitors annually.

The NMI Museum is the product of two decades of work, and millions of dollars in initial investment. Over the past decade, the Museum has worked to see the repatriation of a significant number of collections of the historic objects of the CNMI held nationally and internationally. These collections include objects held in foreign museums, by various armed services, private company collections and personal collections. On an almost weekly basis, the Museum receives collections of photos and artifacts from the spouses and families of U.S. soldiers who served here in WWII, from the families of Japanese who lived here before the war or served during the war, from local families who've contributed their entire photo col-

See NMI on Page 13

FRIDAY

From Page 10

violence of the young vs. the young, and the gruesome incidence of a 70-year old lady bludgeoned to death in her own basement by heretofore unknown assailant(s).

There is a recognizable middle class who is neither ostentatious or deprived, though gauging the state of somatic measures, there evidently is a widespread epidemic of obesity by default where and when the food portions in eating places are humungous.

Iraq defines the deep cleavage between McCain and Obama, and painfully so. Oprah Winfrey's celebrated author Eckard Etolle provides a balance. Faith that the U.S. past led by Bush is done, finis, and can be forgiven. There is no sense in flailing a dead horse. The future that Obama and Rodham yearn for is open and available for all to decide. Embracing the here-and-now advocated by Oprah's Etolle might just be the Friday affirmation, patently exuding in Obama's Chicago, is what the nation needs and requires.

Chicago remains my kind of town; and Obama, my kind of Chicagoan on the roll!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼80°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼72
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74

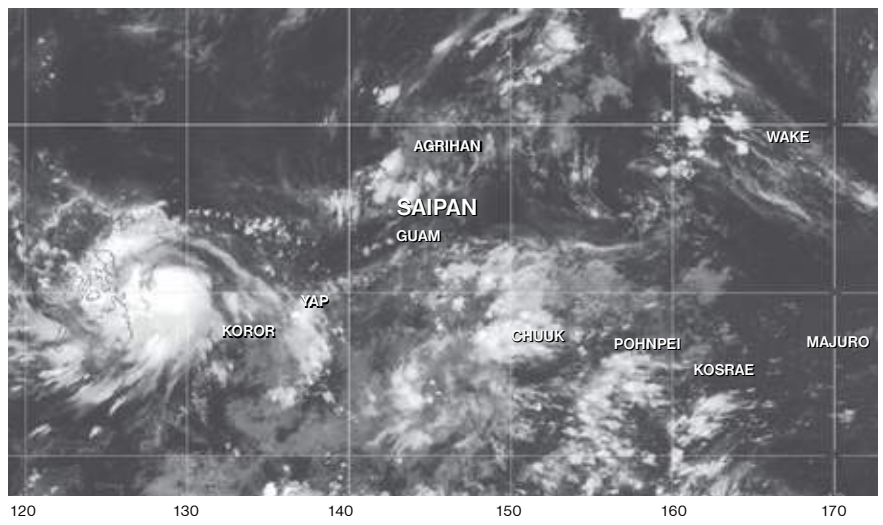
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼45
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼80
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲74	▼60
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼71
Paris	Showers	▲73	▼53
Pusan	Cloudy	▲86	▼69
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼62
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲76	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼62
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼61
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲78	▼61

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:00AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:22AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:02PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:20PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Fengshen (07W) is centered at 10N131E or 260 miles northwest of Koror. Tropical storm Fengshen is moving west at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds at 50 mph. For more information, see JTWC bulletins under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with Fengshen are found between 5N and 12N from 130E to 134E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 10N140E to 5N145E to a weak circulation centered at 2N149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between the equator and 6N from 142E to 152E. Upper-level divergence and convergent trade-winds are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk between 6N and 10N from 148E to 156E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 16N140E to Pagan at 18N146E then continues eastward to a weak circulation centered near 19N151E to a second circulation located near 18N159E to 20N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 16N and 21N from 141E to 155E and between 16N and 21N from 160E to 165E. A surface trough extends from 20N165E to 18N170E to a circulation centered at 20N176E. Scattered showers are found between 14N and 17N from 173E to 180 and between 21N and 25N from 175E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:48AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:11PM	6:43AM
Saturday	8:55PM	7:37AM
Sunday	9:37PM	8:29AM
Monday	10:16PM	9:21AM
Tuesday	10:16PM	9:21AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMI

From Page 11

lections, and from former residents who collected pre-contact objects. In every instance, whether the material was turned over from another Museum, the Navy, or from a family's personal collection, the repatriation of these objects would not have happened without the existence of the Museum. In many cases, these items were turned over with specific promises regarding their care.

These services and more are carried out on a shoestring budget. By my calculations, the Museum's entire current year's budget would cover approximately nine hours of CUC's fuel and operations. I would hope that the collection, care and maintenance of our historic objects and other services provided by this Commonwealth's Museum over the course of an entire year are worth at least the equivalent of nine hours of CUC operations.

I would also note that Museum personnel have been reduced by more than half, from 10 at one point to the current four staff. The Museum has had no "all others" funding available to it since December of 2007. Operational supplies such as gallery light bulbs and bathroom tissue, lawn maintenance equipment, computer equipment, and vehicles and fuel to carry out Museum business have, with the exception of small donations, been provided out-of-pocket by the staff themselves. Staff also volunteer their unpaid time to keep the Museum open on Saturdays, and to open late or on weekends for tours, presentations and other special activities.

The community needs to come together to discuss and work toward solutions for our public utilities, and the operations and direction of our government in general. We need to do this, however, in an intelligent and thoughtful way. Simply stating "we don't need" a particular public service, without having all of the facts or taking into account all of the considerations, is neither appropriate nor prudent.

It is my opinion, and I hope the opinion of many others in our community, that the preservation and management of the cultural and historic objects of the CNMI, that represent hundreds and thousands of years of the very unique history of these islands and her people, is worth immensely more than the equivalent of nine hours of power each year.

We thank the community for your support, and look forward to seeing you at your Museum.

Robert H. Hunter is the executive director of the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD
Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
Mileage: 41649
Price: ~~$15,699~~
REDUCED PRICE
$14,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR.	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	$14,699	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
GM CARS								
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	~~$9,599~~	$7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	$8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	$8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~$10,999~~	$9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~$29,999~~	$28,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
U08-024R	2006	TACOMA 4X4 A/CAB	MANUAL	46950	RED	CWMAN001	$16,099	
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	~~$15,999~~	$13,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~$11,899~~	$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	~~$12,499~~	$11,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	~~$11,599~~	$10,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~$8,999~~	$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~$10,999~~	$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~$16,799~~	$15,299
U08-035T	2000	NIZZAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	$6,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~$7,999~~	$7,099
VANS								
U08-031T	2006	DODGE CARAVAN HYDRAULIC LIFT	AUTO	3671	GOLD	ACF-128	$19,999	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4 WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	$9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	~~$14,599~~	$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~$13,699~~	$12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	~~$15,699~~	$14,999
U07-082T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		~~$14,599~~	$12,599
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR. 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~$19,185~~	$19,099

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Letters to the Editor

Pew spew

It has been some time since I have spoken out about all of the Pew spew. I was off island at the Tsukiji Fish Market in Tokyo, where the world goes to buy seafood. As I walked through the market I couldn't help but ask myself, how many Pew supporters have gone there as tourists and enjoyed some sushi and a cold beer? What an amazing place. It is like the seventh wonder of the world. It was by far one of the most amazing places I have seen. The seafood that is being processed and the care that is taken to ensure that all of the produce and seafood is handled with the utmost care as it is on its way to and from international market places to feed the world was awe inspiring. The number of jobs that are created and the number of families that are fed by the industry was a sight to see. From the fisherman to the fuel companies, chefs to the carpenter who made the chairs we sat on in the sushi bar and the people who build and maintain the boats down to security guards directing traffic in and out of the market. And the list goes on and on.

Moving on, let me start by saying that I have nothing but respect and admiration for Angelo Villagomez and everyone else for their efforts in spearheading the Beautify CNMI campaign. I myself have participated in the cleanup program. It has been a very commendable effort and continues to be a great project for our community. But on to another topic, I myself grew up with a "Save The Whales" bumper sticker on the back of my Datsun 620 pickup truck. I cringed when I first saw the clubbing of harp seals for their pelts. However, we are not talking about fashion here, are we? My first and probably only book report in school was called "Blood bath at Iki Beach," based on a story taken from *Time* magazine about the slaughter of dolphins on a beach in Japan. I grew up watching *The Undersea World* of Jacques Yves Cousteau and Mutual of Omaha's *Wild Kingdom* with Marlin Perkins. I have lived and dove in the CNMI for the past 18 years and have always made it a practice to be very conscientious about the coral reefs and their care. However, that is neither here nor there. I think for the most part, we all want to see what is best for the community and what is best for the environment.

But let us keep in mind that while Mother Earth should be protected, it was also designed to provide resources for everyone living on her. I will not try and quote a bunch of data about WestPac and I will refrain from calling the proponents of the Pew project evildoers and eco-Nazis—something they seem to have difficulty with. I have watched as the "non-evil doers" attack my good friend, Mr. John Gourley, because he chooses to expose the misinformation they are spewing out, while they try to discredit him and accuse him of being on someone's payroll without any proof. It is my understanding that they referred to him as an "eco-prostitute." This is starting to sound a lot like old-time religion when it was "believe us because we are right and everyone else is wrong and if you oppose us you must pay." I have spoken with a number of people who used to be proponents of this project but have simply backed away from its organizers' all-or-nothing mentality.

I strongly applaud Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan for stepping forward and asking the overzealous group to wait for five years in order to observe what is happening in Hawaii. Pew does not want this to happen. Their latest little sticker says "All we are saying, is give Pew a chance." Fine, so why don't we start with establishing hunting seasons for certain species of marine life based on scientific fact and individual's species mating seasons and gestation periods? How is that for a chance? Okay, how about establishing certain sizes for certain species in order to guarantee the perpetuation of each species. There, how does that sound? It seems to me that they have no interest in such a concept. They would like to shove this concept down your throat and have you choke on it. Bush is almost out of office and they themselves in their own articles have expressed urgency in getting it signed before he leaves office. Then Bush will go to his little farm and retire and they will have their trophy and move on.

I was present at Porky's for one of their presentations. They are not interested in hearing about the opposition. They all seem to be in no way interested in considering options. Mr. Angelo Villagomez's basis for supporting this project were twofold. 1. It's a great idea. 2. Why not? Mr. Villagomez also made claims that Crystal Seas and Marianas

See PEW on Next Page

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In Partnership with the Inetnon Åmot Natibu/Ammwelil Safeyal Faluwasch
PRESENTS

Native Medicine Symposium
"Ta Kontinua Prumaktika I Åmot Natibu/Sibwe Sóbweiló Yáyáál Safeyal Faluwasch"

ANA ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

On Saturday, 21 June 2008, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Tinian Youth Center

Traditional Indigenous Healers from Tinian, Rota, and Saipan
Will talk about their practices and some will demonstrate the making of traditional medicines.

The Youths and Adults are Cordially Invited, Free of Charge.

Lunch is sold by Tinian Local Vendors.

This Symposium is funded in part by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to the Inetnon Amot Natibu/Åmmwelil Safeyal Faluwasch (A non-profit corporation).

PEW

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Fisheries were somehow being financed by WestPac. This is a false statement. They wanted to tell us how bad WestPac is and what a great failure they are. And I suppose those same individuals would like to tell me what a great president Bush is and all the great things he has done for our country. Please!!! When the opposition had questions or concerns, proponents begrudgingly pretended to listen but the bottom line is they have blinders on. It was very apparent that the party was for supporters of the project and we were nothing more than party crashers. There is no middle ground with them. Mr. Villagomez has made claims that things are negotiable. Please enlighten us as to what exactly is negotiable in the Pew scheme. They have stated their objectives are to preserve the northern islands for diving and to protect the coral reefs. This is their primary objective. Correct? That is my understanding. Let's make this as easy as possible and see if Pew will help us clear up some of the smoke and mirror mysteries about what exactly they are trying to do.

Dear Pew people,

Where is a specific proposal for exactly what you intend to do? I would very much like for them to send me the specific proposal in all its glory. Black and white. The more I observe the more it seems like some people were contacted and offered jobs and were put on payroll. That same people got together and decided to draw a circle around a random portion of the islands and then, ooops! that is not our waters. "Someone get the eraser so we draw a new random line and 'Bob's Your Uncle.'" There you have it. Our not-so-professional opinion about what is best for everyone else. How did this whole thing come to be? I would ask that those whose minds are so set on taking away a resource forever, at least be forthright with the public. Who approached who? What is your monthly salary and exactly what are your names and how much do you get paid to be eco-environmental *volunteers*? *Paid volunteers*, how is that for an oxymoron. Come on folks, it's a small island; I have a pretty good idea who is on payroll. I will not state names as that would be akin to spreading rumors but you folks on payroll could come out and tell us and then we would all the better understand the playing field. I think it is your responsibility to the public to let us know what really motivates you, Mother Earth or the almighty dollar. Please don't forget that your paycheck and those greenbacks came from wood from the rainforests. I am not trying to be facetious or malicious and at the same time, I do not think the supporters on payroll should be hypocritical or pretend like they are just volunteers out to save the world. If that were truly the case, you would cash your checks and donate the funds back to Pew.

Now class, how about some Q & A? Dear supporters of Pew, please answer the following questions. These are very easy questions so no spin doctoring please.

1. Is it your main objective to preserve the northern islands for a nonexistent diving industry?

2. Do you know how many recreational divers have actually paid money that trickled into the economy for the purpose of scuba diving in the northern islands over the past 20 years?

3. How many investors in the CNMI do you know who are currently providing dive boat charters to the Northern Islands?

4. How many of the proponents of Pew are on payroll with the foundation? My understanding is there are several. We the people would like to know exactly who is on payroll and how much you receive. This goes to motivation. Is this all about

See PEW on Next Page

Clarification

I wish to apologize to William I. Macaranas for seeming to imply, at the forum Thursday evening, that I had no respect for the land of the Chamorros and Carolinians. That is not what I intended. I was trying to answer the concern expressed, just before, that too much traffic in the proposed monument area might adversely affect them by observing that the available land did not seem large enough for such things as major tourism development.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Court ramblings

I write to dispute the claim made by E. Barrett Ristroph in your paper. In her letter, Ristroph writes: "Many of us know (former) Judge Lizama for his wit and wisdom, delivered gratis from the bench to those of us who need it."

Having been in former Judge Lizama's courtroom for probate on many occasions, let me assure you that Lizama did not often deliver wit and wisdom. Instead, he often delivered irrelevant and self-aggrandizing ramblings ranging from his golf course experience to his fondest childhood memories. I often found his strained attempts at folksy wisdom to be distracting, incoherent, bizarre, and very costly.

I cannot tell you how many times I was subjected to Lizama's tangents and how frustrated I became, each time thinking, "Good grief. This is a waste of my time and money. This is costing me $200 per hour. Shut up and stop running up my attorney fees. Stick to the relevant case facts and the fine points of law. "

One hearing with Lizama took up more than 3 hours and cost my father's estate close to $1,000, thanks, in part, to Lizama dispensing his wit and wisdom from the bench at my family's expense.

And during those painful, agonizing three hours of acrimonious litigation, former Judge Lizama didn't even have the decency lighten up the atmosphere by going on a diversionary tangent explaining what happened when a Russian woman disturbed the peace at his home a few years ago. I think I might have gladly paid an extra $200 for such an entertaining explanation of such curious circumstances. How he explained the situation to his wife may have provided many of us with true wit and wisdom.

Charles P. Reyes Jr.
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board has been changed to June 26, 2008 at 6:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of the Department of Public Lands, Joeten Building, DanDan. The public is invited to attend. The agenda will include:

A. Preliminary Matters:
Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes, Communications
B. Reports:
Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Administrator, Committees, Legal Counsel
C. Public Hearings
1. No 2008-0884 Conditional Use Application by Aqua Saipan Water Company for use of an existing building for water bottling (see separate newspaper ad for details)
2. No. 2008-0903 Conditional use Application by LD Prime Corp. for warehousing and storage (see separate newspaper ad for details).
D. Contested Cases.
None
E. Permits and Related Actions - Review and Decide
1. 2008-0670 Conditional Use Application by GPPC for contractor's office and heavy equipment storage (continued from May 8, 2006 meeting).
2. 2008-0884 Conditional Use Application by Aqua Saipan Water Company to use an existing building for water bottling.
3. 2008-0903 Conditional use Application by LD Prime Corp. for warehousing and storage.
4. 2008-0278 Preliminary Plat Application by Trini Santos for a major subdivision of Lot 031 F 21.
5. 2008-0797 Preliminary Plat Application by Rita Cruz for a major subdivision of lot 002 C 13.
6. 2008-0968 Preliminary Plat Application by Rita C. Cruz for a major subdivision of lot 001 C 14.
7. NO 2008-0908 Preliminary Plat Application by Alexander Vekhov for a major subdivision of TR 2045/08 and TR 2044/08
F. Old Business
1. Review proposals for adult business park zoning districts. Decide on publishing proposed regulations to establish adult business park zoning districts.
2. Review public comment on adult business overlay zone and decide on publishing proposed regulations to establish an overlay zone.
3. Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Review and approve amendments to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps. Review and approve transmittal of proposed amendments of the Saipan Zoning Law to the Legislative Delegation.
G. New Business
H. Public Comment
I. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with legal counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
J. Miscellaneous:
Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Prepaid Sale
June 20, 2008 • 6:00PM to 9:00PM
Liberation Grounds (Garapan)
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PEW

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believing in a cause or partially a cause while primarily a paycheck. Come on, I'll show you mine if you'll show me yours.

5. According to any statistics you would like to provide, how many divers that have or would dive up north, will be diving beyond the 30-mile mark which is the long line fishing limit? Some 2,000 feet of water is not exactly what PADI deems recreational diving.

6. What is your basis for wanting to stop longline fishing?

7. Please provide the public with the number of proponents of the Pew that are vegetarians and do not eat fish or seafood of any kind.

8. Please provide also the number of proponents who do eat fish and seafood but only want their fish caught in other countries where fishing regulations are nonexistent, or at best antiquated.

9. How many Pew proponents support the catching and selling of fish as long as it does not directly benefit our community and economy.

10. Please describe how future generations will benefit through the permanent, forever, eternal, infinite, don't even think about touching anything forever and ever and ever closure of the northern islands. In 100 words or less, please describe this benefit.

People of the CNMI, please watch for the answers to the above questions and please keep in mind that refusal to answer the above questions is really the only answer the public should need. Senator Pangelinan is correct. The sky is not falling and the world as we know it is not scheduled to end tomorrow. Let Pew explain to us, the public, why we should not wait for five years.

Yes, we know about the visitor's center that will be on Saipan so we can tell people about the islands 200 miles north. We know about the T-shirt sales and postcards. We know that a seamstress will make some money for sewing uniforms for park rangers that I am assuming will be living on Saipan and working at the visitors' center. We know about the worldwide recognition but keep in mind, sometimes worldwide recognition is just that. And then it is over. Most of all, we all know that Bush is almost out of office and how important it is that we take the Pew way or the highway before our fearless leader is out of office and no longer in a position to sign away the future of the northern islands. Do we really believe that tourists will flock to the CNMI to see a signboard at the end of Smiling Cove with a little arrow that points north saying, "Monument 200 miles and good luck getting there"?

Keep in mind that people who support protecting the longline and inshore fishing industries also support the concept of protecting the reefs and the diving industry—or at least I do. And I will not be hypocritical in my approach. And I will not hide my motivation. I stand to benefit financially as do many through a sustainable fishing industry. However, if I found out that fishing boats were out there finning sharks and dumping them overboard, not only would I walk away from any financial opportunities, I would also work to expose those abusing our resources. Don't get excited now. I didn't say I would then support Pew. I would like to commend Mr. Gourley, who through much public abuse and ridicule, continues to battle against the smoke and mirrors approach of the Pew Foundation. And to Mr. Stanley Torres, please don't forget my "Proud To Be An Evil Doer" button you promised me. To Mr. Joaquin Villagomez, thank you and your group for taking action to counter this blindside approach to shutting off the natural resources of the people of the CNMI. We the people of the CNMI need to do exactly what Pew is doing. We must let good old George W. know that the people have spoken. Mr. Joaquin Villagomez, although I believe Mr. Gourley has already sent me the signature page for opposition to Pew, I am not sure so just in case, please e-mail me a page and I will also collect signatures in opposition of the Pew proposal. jim@bizaidsaipan.com

Jim Davies
Kagman II, Saipan

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NMC hosts Health Fair Career Day tomorrow

In an effort to raise awareness about medical and health professions in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College's Area Health Education Center is sponsoring a free Health Fair Career Day tomorrow, June 21, 2008.

The Career Day aims to familiarize high school students and other participants with the various medical and health professions and career opportunities in the CNMI. It also affords participants the chance to learn from testimonials of people who have been and are currently in fields of medicine and health.

Presenters at the fair include Patricia Coleman (NMC CREES), Pas Calvo (NMC Nursing Department), Ed Sablan (AHEC graduate), Pam Carhill (physical therapist), Dr. Alberto Ventura (CHC Dental Clinic), and Claudine K. Atalig (PHI Pharmacy).

Additionally, the NMC Financial Aid Office, NMC CREES, NMC Admissions & Records Office, and the CNMI Scholarship Office will be hosting information booths for those interested in learning about educational and financial aid opportunities.

The fair is free and open to the public. It will be held at the Napu Room at the Pacific Island Club and will run from 8am to 5pm. Contact David Apatang for reservations at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or 1019 or at davida@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NEWS BRIEFS

DEQ sets cleanup at COP beach

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Unai Dankulu Agigan Beach, better known as Coral Ocean Point.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet on Saturday, July 12, at 8am. Many of the items are picnic debris and some household garbage. Gloves, trash bags and refreshments will be provided for volunteers.

Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continues, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Volunteers removed 1,440 lbs of debris from Old Man by the Sea on June 7.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500.

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, warned that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training and an aerial survey on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla.

The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- June 20 from 9am to 12am live fire training
- June 23 from 5am to 7pm aerial survey
- June 24-27 from 9am to 7pm live fire training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Eco Camp's Session 2 starts Monday

A new session of Eco Camp starts on Monday, June 23, at the Mariana Resort and Spa. Over 50 kids participated in Session 1 and highlights included horseback riding, mountain biking, snorkeling, dancing, and even a mini-triathlon.

"We have four groups of kids each separated by age. The 4- and 5-year-olds are the Sea Turtles and we also have the Coconut Crabs, Piranhas. Our oldest kids are in the Barracuda group. Each group gets their own counselors and schedule, it allows us to keep the activities age specific and tailor the program by ability," said Camp manager Vincene Asanuma.

"Our counselors have been working really hard to make camp not only fun but a learning experience for all the kids. Christy Jones, a magician's assistant and choreographer from Sandcastle, is a real favorite of the kids. She comes and teaches the kids dance and movement each week, and the kids really respond to her," added Asanuma.

Eco Camp features three swimming pools, a beach, baseball field, go kart track, golf course, and horseback riding. The adventure center has an art room, media room, and even a kitchen.

Eco Camp started back in the summer of 2000 and is offered to tourists and locals. Camp is offered in daily, weekly, or two-week sessions. Buffet lunch is available, as is free extended care up to 5pm, and pick up service from Garapan. Registration is done online at www.marianastrekking.com.

Eco Camp is designed for kids between the ages of 4 and 13, and is priced at $175 for a two-week session. Signup is at www.marianastrekking.com or call Asanuma at 323-TREK (8735). ***(PR)***

Notice of Public Hearing

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0884, by Aqua Saipan Water Factory. The application is for the operation of a water factory facility on EA116-4 the site of the former Neo Fashion Garment Factory in San Antonio, Saipan.

Date: June 26, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, June 26, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

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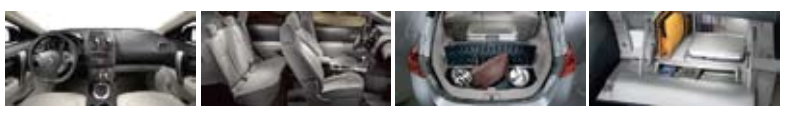

2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00

FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Ranger~~	~~#7PA3111~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$16,990.00~~
Fusion	#7R114053	White	$19,990.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	$19,990.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00

KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
~~Rio~~	~~#7629237~~ SOLD	~~White~~	~~$12,995.00~~
Sportage	#77354358	Jade	$17,695.00
Sorento	#65602982	Green	$18,995.00

HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Fit	#7S031086	Silver	$14,995.00
Fit Sport	#7S031103	White	$16,495.00
Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
~~Ridgeline~~	~~#6H56662~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$29,990.00~~

Joeten Motors 30th ANNIVERSARY

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TEL. 234-5562

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PRE-OPENING CLEANUP JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youth volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints clean one of the rooms of the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Wednesday. The activity was part of the group's community service project to eliminate dust inside the rooms and corridors of the new dialysis center in preparation for its opening.

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SAIPANCELL has a cool deal you don't want to miss!
Motorola Razr 2 V9M
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Postpaid
LG AX 4270
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483-CARE www.saipancell.com TYPHOON PROVEN
*Some conditions apply. 24 month agreement required. Minimum 500 minute rate plan required and Unlimited Local SMS at $5.95 per month avail special price. Offer valid till June 30, 2008 or while supplies last.
**Discount does not apply to BlackBerry accessories.
GUALO RAI • MITA TRAVEL, GARAPAN

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School calendar

Summer 2008 School Information

■ REGULAR SUMMER SESSION

Start Date: June 30, 2008

End Date: July 31, 2008

Time: 8:00 – 12:00

Focus: Reading, writing, vocabulary development, math

■ HONORS ENGLISH

Start Date: August 4, 2008

End Date: August 29, 2008

Registration forms are available at the front office. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 Mass practice

This is to inform all classmates of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a Mass practice on Thursday, June 26, 2008, 6pm at Kristo Rai Church.

All classmates are encouraged to attend this practice. If you have any questions, call Eleanor A. Cepeda at 483-6358. ***(PR)***

Sr. Remedios school registration opens

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center has started open registration for School Year 2008-2009.

Sister Remedios ECDC offers two choices for children between ages 3 and 5 years old:

■ A regular school day – 7:30am to 11:30am, or

■ A regular school day *plus* afternoon DAY CARE – 7:30am to 5:00pm

For more information, call 234-6247 between the office hours of 7:30am and 5pm. ***(PR)***

CNMI Scholarship Office announcement

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, ongoing, or returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. ***(PR)***

LibDay parade applications now open

The 2008 Liberation Day Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the upcoming 2008 Liberation Day parade. Interested individuals, companies and/or organization may pick up an application at the Marianas Visitors Authority office from Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm. The deadline to submit all application forms is June 27, 2008, no later than 5pm. For more information, contact Frank Tudela at (670) 664-3200/01 or e-mail via ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

New Call-A-Ride bus schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities is informing all Call-A-Ride customers of the new Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

Monday to Saturday: 6am to 9pm

Sunday: Off

The bus fee is $2 one way and $4 for round trip

Contact Willdrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell number 483-9013/9078. ***(PR)***

Vendors sought for Games, tournament

The 2008 Oceania Games will be held on June 21-28, 2008 at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Asia Pacific Little League Tournament will be held on June 25 through July 6, 2008 at the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

In consideration of these upcoming special events, interested vendors who wish to sell food, snacks and drinks (no alcoholic beverages allowed) during these games are requested to submit/fax their proposals to the Sports and Recreation Office at 664-2510 no later than Friday, June 13, 2008 for consideration. Concessionaires are limited to only six vendors. ***(PR)***

New schedule for public library

The following is the new schedule of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library:

Monday-CLOSED
Tuesday-9am-5pm
Wednesday-9am-5pm
Thursday-9am-5pm
Friday-9am-5pm
Saturday-9am-5pm
Sunday-CLOSED
Government Holidays-CLOSED

Notice of Public Hearing

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on a Conditional Use Permit Application, No. 2008-0903, by L.D. Prime Corporation. The application is for the operation of a warehouse and storage facility on Lot No. 1836/1842 the site of the former East West Rental warehouse facility in Chalan Laulau, Saipan.

Date: June 26, 2008
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: DPL Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to issue or deny the permit.

Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office but they must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, June 26, 2008. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Steve Tilley, Zoning Administrator at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC). /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Red flag up at five Saipan beaches

Group to collect signatures supporting Pew monument

Friends of the Marianas Marine Monument will begin collecting signatures on a petition in support of the Monument this weekend.

The petition reads as follows:

"Understanding that the quality of the world's oceans is deteriorating, and that its marine life in all its forms is also under stress; and

"Observing that designation of marine sanctuaries does restore fisheries and marine life to an earlier plenitude; and

"Welcoming the opportunity to support the Micronesian Challenge and contribute towards/support the restoration of the world's seas and underwater ecosystems; and

"Recognizing that the CNMI's economy is failing, and its people suffering accordingly; and

"Believing that an increase in visitors to the CNMI would significantly refuel the economy; and

"Being aware that declaration of a Marianas Marine Monument would bring such an increase of visitors, scientists, explorers, tourists and the media to the CNMI; and further

"Keeping in mind the historical and cultural significance of all of the islands in the Marianas archipelago; and

"Wishing to assure their preservation and protection,

"We, the undersigned do hereby petition the President of the United States, George W. Bush, to designate the waters surrounding the Mariana islands of Muag, Uracas and Asuncion a national monument, to be jointly and cooperatively regulated and administered by the people of the CNMI and the relevant agencies of the federal government."

The petition will be available for signature at Price-Costco on Saturday, June 21, from 10am - noon. Time and place for additional signing opportunities will be announced.

To participate in collecting signatures, send an e-mail to ruth.tighe@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

The Division of Environmentally Quality has raised the red flag on five beaches on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these sites for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beach sites are Jeffries Beach, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Sugar Dock.

DEQ said that samples collected from these sites contained concentrations of enterocci, a fecal indicator bacteria, that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed water samples collected from 50 locations on Saipan's coast this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Joeten Motors Certified* USED CARS

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2005 Nissan Sentra
STOCK # 5L513530
$11,995.00*

2006 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 6L023683
$13,995.00*

2005 Honda Accord EX
STOCK # 5A068921
$18,995.00*

1999 Volkswagon Beetle
STOCK # XM464684
$6,995.00*

2003 Kia Sorento LX
STOCK # 35176610
$9,995.00

2005 Nissan Murano AWD
STOCK # 5W414457
$18,995.00

1999 Toyota 4Runner 4x4
STOCK # X0221184
$9,995.00*

2004 Honda Civic DX
STOCK # 4H606499
$12,995.00*

2004 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4
STOCK # 4UC14321
$14,995.00*

2005 Ford Ranger
STOCK # 5PA78255
$12,995.00*

2002 Nissan Altima SE
STOCK # 2C708321
$10,995.00

2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4
STOCK # 5C702102
$21,995.00*

Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2006 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # 6L012086
$15,995.00*

2005 Nissan 350Z
STOCK # 5M654094
$24,995.00*

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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is offered on accounts opened on 6/20/08. The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the APY is $5,000; maximum deposit is $500,000. Funds must be drawn on another financial institution. Fees could reduce the earnings on the account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. This rate cannot be combined with any other promotional rate offer or with a rate bonus such as Priority Banking Plan 3 or Primera Gold. Does not apply to Jumbo CDs or IRA CDs.
†The minimum deposit to open an account, obtain the APY and receive a gift is $10,000. You will receive either the AutoTour 5-Piece Glove Box Set or Projector Clock as a gift when you open a Doorbuster CD with a qualifying deposit. Offer expires 6/20/08, or while supplies last. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Cannot be combined with any other promotion. Limit of one gift per customer

Pacific

A. Samoan awarded Gates scholarship

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Leiloa Fia Tiumalu, a 2008 Waipahu High School graduate who attended Pava'ia'i Elementary School and Aua Elementary School, has been awarded the prestigious Gates Millenium Scholarship (GMS) provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Leiloa is the daughter of Mr. Laupana Tulifau Tiumalu of Fagatogo and Mrs. Lotoifale Tiumalu of Aua.

The award, which can cover a student's educational costs up to his or her pursuit of a doctoral degree, was a great relief for Leiloa, the eldest of six children born to the Tiumalu couple, who have since separated.

"I cried when I found out I got the scholarship. My parents are separated...times have been hard...so this scholarship is a relief," she told Samoa News. "I'm the oldest of six kids so I had to do good."

The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential, the GMS Web site states.

GMS provides numerous types of scholarships, including the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), for which Samoan students are eligible. It is the country's largest nonprofit organization devoted solely to providing scholarships for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

As a recipient of the APIASF, Leiloa is considered a Gates Millennium Scholar (GMS).

And because Leiloa is relied upon to help with her younger siblings—Faamao Rocket, 16, Ulimasao Princess, 15, Talofa Marilyn, 14, Abraham Tulifau, 12 and Demitri Triston, 10—she has chosen to attend Leeward Community College, just minutes away from her hometown of Waipahu.

Leiloa aspires to be a teacher.

After completing her studies at LCC, where she will major in education and teaching, Leiloa plans to attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She also plans to pursue her master's and doctorate degrees, focusing on education.

"I'm planning to come back home and teach here in American Samoa then go out to Hawaii," she said.

New Guam naval hospital planned

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter announced yesterday that the new U.S. Naval Hospital will be built at the hospital's current location in Agana Heights, Guam.

The Navy conducted a site evaluation to consider the option of moving the new hospital to a location in the north.

The new U.S. Naval Hospital will be expanded to accommodate the increased military presence; however the exact cost and size of the new facility are still being finalized by the Department of Navy. The new facility will also include increased primary and specialty care services to patients on Guam.

"News that the new Naval Hospital facility will be built on the current hospital grounds is good news for our servicemembers, retirees and veterans," said Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo. "Congress recommended that the Navy keep the new hospital on the current site. The new facility will increase the current hospital's capacity and bring new specialty care services to our island."

The announcement also clears the way for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue its plans to build a Community Based Outpatient Clinic adjacent to the U.S. Naval Hospital facility.

Language in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 requires the Department of Navy and Veterans' Affairs to study the possibility of a joint facility that would leverage the capabilities of the hospital staff and services for veterans' on Guam. Building the new hospital in Agana Heights makes it more feasible to continue studying the possibility of a joint facility.

"I hope that the new Naval Hospital will increase access for Veterans' on Guam to specialty care," stated Bordallo. "We are working with the leadership of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee in urging the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to share resources to improve the quality of care for our servicemembers, retirees and veterans on Guam. " ***(PR)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Customary land conference continues in Vanuatu

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The Making Land Work conference has attracted 80 delegates from across the Pacific including government officials and academics. Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob McMullan, is there to discuss Australia's election pledge of US$50 million, to help Pacific nations improve their land policies. He says regional governments are under pressure because of new and competing interests relating to land ownership which may conflict with old customs that have been in place for generations. He says customary land ownership will be retained, but discussion centre around how land owners can get extra income and enhance livelihood from the land by co operating with commercial development.

Solomons govt supports strikers cause

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—The Solomon Islands government has come out in support of striking Telekom workers, as they move to have their general manager, Martyn Robinson, sacked. Telekom workers have been on strike since Tuesday, following the collapse of conciliatory talks. The Solomon Islands National Provident Fund owns almost two thirds of the state-controlled carrier. Its director, Charles Ashley, says the board has met with minister, Gordon Darcy Lilo, and they are looking for a quick resolution to the standoff. "We, the SINPF board, do not have the power to sack Martyn Robinson—that is the decision of the Telekom board," he said. "But we as majority shareholder can put our case before the Telekom board." The strike has affected banks and Solomon Airlines, with both unable to carry out normal business because some communication lines are down.

PNG deputy speaker's house raided by police

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—Deputy Speaker and Member for Talasea Francis Marus had his house raided by police in the early hours of Monday morning at Mosa in Kimbe, West New Britain province. It is not known why the Port Moresby-based task force carried out the search.

Be wise...
Visit us soon.

WHAT: Wise Women Village Project – **FREE** preventive health screening just for women
WHO: Indigenous or Micronesian women between the ages of 25-65 who have not had a pap test in 4 or more years
WHEN: Saturdays, March 15, 29 and April 05
WHERE: Mt. Carmel Cathedral Joeten Daidai Social Hall
TIME: 9am – 12 noon

Please do not eat or drink anything for 8 hours before your diabetes/cholesterol screening tests

Community partners: The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Ayuda Network Inc., Commonwealth Cancer Association, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, and the Mayor's Office of Saipan

DPH prevention program partners: Title X Family Planning Program, Breast & Cervical Cancer Program, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

The Wise Women Village Project is part of the Wise Women Project, a preventive women's health project partially funded by the US DHHS Office on Women's Health ASIST2010 initiative

To learn more, please contact the Diabetes Prevention & Control Program at 664-4030.

Heart disease isn't just a man's disease.

Did you know that heart disease is the #1 killer of women?

Reduce your Risk:

- ☑ Eat healthier meals
- ☑ Be physically active
- ☑ Stay tobacco free

To learn more, please call the Division of Public Health – Wise Women Project at 234-8950 ext. 2141

The Wise Women Project is federally funded by the US DHHS Office on Women's Health ASIST2010 Initiative.

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ENTER TO WIN PEPSI GIVEAWAYS
Pepsi Max Umbrella, Tumblers, Shirts,
Handy Waterproof Case or Pepsi Max 20oz Btl.
Must be 18 years or older to participate. Redemption at PTC in Puerto Rico. Last day of Redemption August 15, 2008.

Business

Oil rises on Nigeria strike threat

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices rose Wednesday, rebounding from earlier losses on reports that Nigerian oil workers are about to strike and as investors focused on a surprise decline in gasoline inventories last week.

Retail gas prices slipped slightly for a second day, a sign that falling demand may be affecting prices and that prices at the pump may have caught up to crude oil's latest record advance.

Oil prices rose sharply in late afternoon trading on reports that talks between white-collar Nigerian oil industry workers and Chevron had broken down. Nigeria is Africa's largest oil producer and a major U.S. supplier.

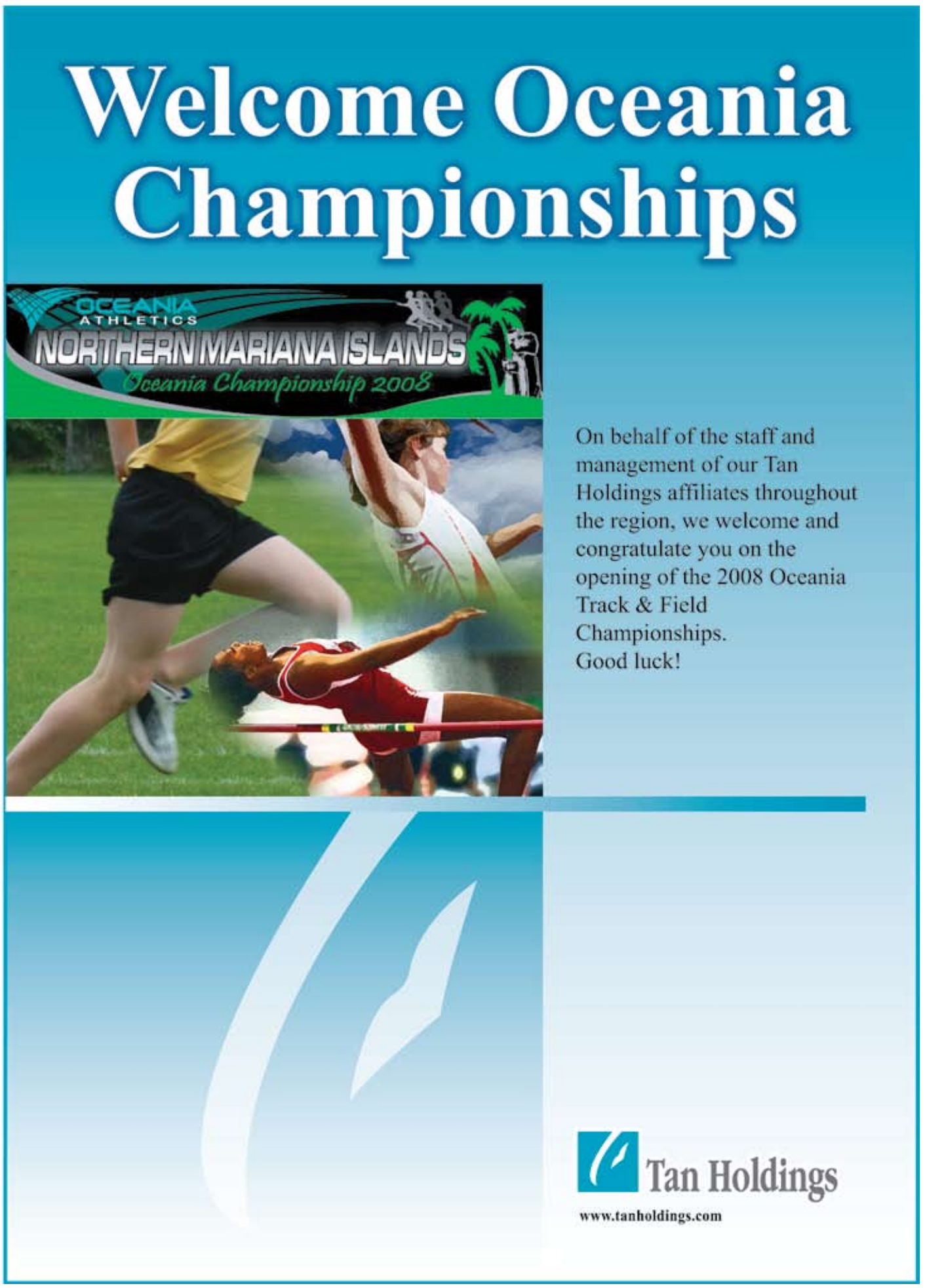
The news out of Nigeria overshadowed a mixed weekly inventory report from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration. Gasoline supplies fell 1.2 million barrels last week, where analysts surveyed by energy research firm Platts were expecting an increase of nearly 1 million barrels. However, the EIA also said demand for gasoline is down 1.8 percent, on average, over the last four weeks compared to last year.

Crude oil supplies fell 1.2 million barrels last week, less than the 2 million barrel decline expected by analysts, and inventories of distillates, which include heating oil and diesel fuel, rose 2.6 million barrels—more than expected.

The mixed data caused prices to jump more than a dollar immediately after the EIA report was issued, only to fall by more than $2 later. But prices rebounded on late afternoon reports out of Nigeria, and light, sweet crude rose $2.67 to settle at $136.68 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Obviously, we're worried about supply, so any kind of headline is going to send prices back up," said Phil Flynn, analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago.

Also boosting prices, the dollar reversed earlier gains and lost ground against the euro Wednesday afternoon. Investors buy commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation when the dollar falls. Also, a weaker dollar makes oil less expensive to investors overseas.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Good luck!
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Yuan hits new high vs US dollar

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—The Chinese yuan gained against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, hitting a fresh high as American and Chinese officials resumed talks centering on trade and other strategic issues.

Washington wants Beijing to loosen controls on currency trading and allow the yuan's rate to set by market forces. U.S. manufacturers contend that the restrictions keep the yuan's value artificially low, giving Chinese exporters an unfair advantage and boosting China's trade surplus.

The yuan has gained about 20 percent against the U.S. dollar since Beijing revamped its foreign exchange trading system in July 2005, revaluing the currency by 2.1 percent to 8.11 yuan to one dollar.

On Wednesday, the yuan began trading at a 6.8823 to the dollar, continuing a steady advance against the dollar that has taken it to record highs in recent weeks. It was trading at 6.8827 by Wednesday afternoon on the over-the-counter market, stronger than Tuesday's close of 6.8914.

AP

In this July 22, 2005 file photo, a clerk at an foreign currency exchange desk at a hotel shows Chinese yuan banknotes in Shanghai, China.

Airlines weigh more jobs cuts, fees

DALLAS (AP)—Airlines executives are continuing to cut jobs and consider new fees on passengers as they battle high fuel prices that could result in record losses for the nation's carriers.

Executives from United Airlines gave more details on plans to shed up to 1,600 salaried jobs at an investors' conference in New York on Wednesday.

Chief Financial Officer Jake Brace said United will also cut union jobs—pilots, flight attendants and mechanics—once the airline draws up a scaled-back flying schedule for fall and winter.

Delta Air Lines Inc. said it would cut domestic capacity another 3 percent later this year, on top of a previously announced 10 percent reduction. The carrier said this year's fuel costs would rise $4 billion from 2007.

Continental Airlines Inc., which boasts about still serving meals in coach, is studying whether it will join the chorus of carriers charging to check a first bag, according to its CEO.

The lone profitable big carrier so far this year, Southwest Airlines Co., still expects to grow modestly through next year—but that's not a sure thing.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks drop on bank worries, FedEx profit warning

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street sank Wednesday for the second straight day on renewed concerns about the financial sector and FedEx Corp.'s warning that weakening demand and surging fuel costs would weigh on its profits in the coming year. The Dow Jones industrial average finished down more than 130 points, after briefly dipping below the 12,000 mark for the first time since mid-March. All three major stock indexes finished down about 1 percent, as oil and bond prices jumped. The Dow fell 131.24, or 1.08 percent, to 12,029.06. The index briefly fell below 12,000 before recovering.

Boeing wins key round in Air Force tanker protest

WASHINGTON (AP)—Boeing scored a major victory Wednesday in its battle to wrestle back a $35 billion Air Force contract from Northrop Grumman and its European partner. The Government Accountability Office upheld Boeing's protest of the refueling tanker contract and recommended the service hold a new competition. The congressional watchdog said it found "a number of significant errors" in the Air Force's February decision, including its failure to fairly judge the relative merits of each proposal.

Welcome and good luck to all participants!

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HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN A HYATT RESORT IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS

Godfather's Bar

AQUARIUS BEACH TOWER HOTEL

taf the athlete's foot

AllStar SPORTING GOODS

Palms Resort Saipan

What's in store for the older worker

By MARIA L. LA GANGA
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Jerry Coffey works at the Home Depot in San Carlos, Calif.

SAN CARLOS, Calif.—Five days a week, Max Gumbert drives up to the 95,000-square-foot Home Depot store in this leafy suburb at the northern edge of Silicon Valley, straps on an orange apron sagging with customer service badges and gets to work.

For eight hours a day, in a shift that often ends at 10:30 p.m., the flooring specialist answers questions: Hardwood or laminate? Ceramic tile or sandstone? Nylon or wool? Pergo or bamboo? Does cork absorb sound better than carpet?

But it is Gumbert's presence here on the sales floor, with his cardigan and courtly manner, that answers a crucial question perplexing demographers and policy experts: If you are 65 years old or more and you're still working in America today, what are you most likely to be doing?

Gumbert is 67, terrified of retirement and happy to go to work every day in the industry that employs more older Americans than any other: retail. Nearly 350,000 men and women 65 or older earn paychecks in the nation's stores, according to a report scheduled for release in June.

In recent years, the question of exactly where older workers were employed has baffled people who have seen conflicting trends ripple through the nation's job sites: More older Americans say they want or need to work past traditional retirement age, but employers are still reluctant to retain or hire them.

One result is that there has been little solid information about where people beyond the average retirement age of 63 work in greatest numbers, a critical issue especially now as benefits shrink and recession looms.

But statistics from the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan research group based in Washington, D.C., show for the first time that people 65 or older and still working in America are statistically most likely to do retail, farming or janitorial work, in that order.

In fact, the nation's stores employ more people 65 and older than the next two occupations combined, which worries some advocates who are trying to encourage the federal government, the country's biggest corporations and other employers to keep older workers on the payroll.

"These are not exactly the pictures of reinvention that you get in your monthly issue of Fortune, Money or AARP magazine," said Marc Freedman, author of "Encore: Finding Work that Matters in the Second Half of Life." This is "an object lesson in the dangers of what could happen if we don't develop a compelling human resource strategy for an aging society."

Although Freedman worries that, "The golden years are being transformed into the Wal-Mart decade," he does acknowledge that the retail industry provides benefits, flexibility and jobs, particularly for less-educated workers.

And there are few places better than this big-box store halfway between San Francisco and San Jose to see the effect of older employees in the workplace and few guides better than Gumbert and his colleagues.

Home Depot will not divulge complete statistics on how many older workers stride the concrete floors of its huge home-improvement stores, but the number is on the rise. The company hooked up with AARP four years ago to woo a sales force that might otherwise be golfing and says it now has 5,000 employees older than 70.

They are loyal and dependable, said Tim Crow, chief human resources officer for the Atlanta-based company. "We look at the demographics, and everyone is getting older. This is the future workforce."

In San Carlos, nearly a score of the 200-plus employees are 60 and older, from Irene Goble, 61, whose quarter-century as a bartender left retirement an unaffordable luxury—"I'm gonna be here till I'm 70 in my walker"—to Coy Deal, 72, a former Silicon Valley electrical engineer who was laid off in his late 60s.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rose McCauley, left, a former plumber, helps Home Depot customer Wendy Goodwin find a plumbing part in San Carlos, Calif. The chain has 5,000 employees older than 70.

Their reasons for regularly punching the time clock in the locker-lined employee break room include "have to," "want to" and everything in between.

Gumbert would place himself in the middle of that spectrum, a German-accented mix of need and desire. Gumbert spent most of his work life in the hotel industry, rising from waiter to director of food, beverages and catering at venues including the San Francisco Hilton.

But by the time he hit his early 50s, the wear and tear were beginning to show. The days stretched to 18 hours. The phone would ring in the middle of the night. Contemporaries began having heart attacks and worse.

Gumbert switched to restaurant work, then left the hospitality field "cold turkey" in search of a job at which, he said, he could "punch in and punch out. I don't want to be called at 2 in the morning."

A newspaper ad led him to the company formerly known as Color Tile. When it went belly up, he landed at Home Depot. Nearly 11 years later, he is still here in the San Carlos store, cutting carpet swatches, calling customers to cement deals, guiding do-it-yourself-ers through the complexities of home renovation.

"I draw Social Security checks, but it goes right into the bank," he says, as does a small pension from his decade at Hilton Hotels Corp. "I'm not dependent on it right now, but who knows what the future brings? It's my nest egg. When I was younger, I wasn't the saving type."

Gumbert's current soapbox is the future of Social Security and the legislators he blames for poking holes in that safety net. He thinks everyone should see Michael Moore's "Sicko," an eye-opener about the state of the American health-care system. He is an ardent fan of Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"I'm scared to retire," he says after weighing bamboo's eco-friendly attributes against the ease with which it can be scratched for a well-tanned man in a Hawaiian shirt. "I like to travel; I couldn't afford to.

"Eventually I think I'll have to retire," Gumbert acknowledges. "When I'm 90, I don't think I'll be selling flooring. But why not? You never know. At least I don't feel my age."

Gumbert and Deal—the 72-year-old former electrical engineer—are walking, hawking proof of another sobering statistic.

In a separate study scheduled for release later this year, the Urban Institute found that 43 percent of people working full-time in their early 50s will change jobs before their late 60s. More than one-quarter of those fifty-something full-time workers will enter a new occupation. Nearly 1-in-4 will be laid off.

"Older people really need to prepare for a work life of change," said Richard Johnson, a principal researcher on both studies. "There's a real strong possibility that you'll lose your job, and you're going to have to go out and find another one."

That's exactly what happened to Deal, a slender man with bright blue eyes who worries that he will last longer than his savings. The former engineer worked for various software companies in the Silicon Valley. One went bankrupt and was bought out by another, then that one got into serious trouble.

"I was actually let go with the reduction in force," Deal said. "I was in my 60s. I went out on unemployment. I put out 100 or more resumes. Most people want to hire some young kid out of school so they can pay them next to nothing. I gave up after I ran out of unemployment."

He went to work with his son, an electrician, and hired on at Home Depot about a year ago. Deal works 16 to 32 hours a week. He wishes the pay were better—he earns a little more than the minimum wage—but he'll keep at it "until I really can't push myself."

$ DOLLARS AND SENSE

Creating a second income

By DAVID UFFINGTON
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Companies struggling to reduce their debt may begin to downsize and not proceed with planned growth. Even if you feel secure in your job and believe that your place of employment is solid, your first loyalty should be to yourself. Many people are now looking for ways to create a second source of income, just in case. One way to do this is by skills upgrade or development.

The summer quarter has started at colleges around the country. Classes during the summer are often compressed into the shorter available time, and taking more than one (especially if you work a full-time job) is tough. But instead of spending your weekends relaxing, you might want to use the time to brush up on a skill or learn a new one, or even move your education along by a few credits, especially if you're close to getting certified in a program. Some couples are doing this together: He's finishing up classes in furnace and air conditioning repair, while she's taking bookkeeping classes, looking ahead to when they'll have their own part-time business.

Best bet: Consider nuts and bolts skills that take care of necessities versus wants. What types of services or products do people want when times are financially tough? What services or products are always considered as needs, no matter the economic climate?

Think portable: What new skills can you develop that can go with you to another job, or even be turned into a form of self-employment?

If you're starting from scratch to develop a second source of income, consider what your hourly rate of return is likely to be in a given line of work. After all, if you're going to do the work after your other job, there are only so many hours you can devote to it at night and on weekends.

Check the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov) and click on Wages by Area and Occupation to see what salaries are paid for different types of work in your area.

Meanwhile, no matter what the economic climate, it's always a good idea to reduce your expenses, don't take on new debt, put as much as possible into savings and keep your resume up to date.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING AGENCY CASES

June 20, 2008 First Notice — June 23, 2008 Second Notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

THESE HEARINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING DEPARTMENT RECORDS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING CLAIMS. If your claims have been haeard, settled, or withdrawn, or you do not wish to pursue your claim, you do not need to appear for the hearings on the schedule below.

If your case has already been resolved through a hearing on an individual labor case, the order in that case is binding and will be adopted in the agency case. There will be no different resolution through the agency case. If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Investigator, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
06-157-11	Aguilar, Gina H.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
04-813 E	Aranda, Marlou		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Ararao, Jimy C.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-155-11	Arcos, M. Digna M.	Rejoice Beauty Salon and Dress Shop	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-161-12	Arellano, M. Loreta M.	Tropical Productions	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-158-11	Asakit, Chai	Cabrera, Joaquin S.	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Baldomero, Shirley D.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Baluso, Espie M.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-157-11	Barbosa, Nenita B.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Barraquias, Benefredo B.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Bi, Xiu Juan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Bronoso, Cenon C.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
07-330	Buerano, Razon M.	Philipan Int'l, Inc.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Cai, Zhongping	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Calage, Erwin S.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Casilla, Annie Par	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-150-11	Casimero, Marieta R.	Saint Trading	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-111-08	Chen, Faqiang	JM Sablan Co. & Tito M. Sablan	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
99-248	Chen, Qi	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-117-08	Cheng, Rongsheng	MZ Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-117-08	Cheng, Xiaoping	MZ Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Chunyu	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	* June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Jiahong	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Meiyue	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Mingjin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Cui, Pengyan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Dang, Thoi Thi	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Dedal, Alvin G.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Del Castillo, Jennifer M.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
01-080-05	Dela Torre, Mary Ann	White House Ent., dba Moon Night Club	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Delos Reyes, Ligaya C.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Delos Santos, Agerico M.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147-11	Doton, Lucita P.	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147-11	Dowez, Monico D.	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Esmores, Emma Q.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Evangelista, Celedonio M.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Fan, Chunyan	K&K Corporation	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Fan, Jingxin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Feng, Lin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Galsote, Eva C.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Gatdula, Yolisie M.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-094-07	Gomes, Nirmal	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-116-09	Gonzales, Erlinda P.	L and W Amusement Corp.	June 24, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Gu, Liwei	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Guinto, Ambrocio R.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Gunnacao, Marieta P.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-076-06	Guo, Feng Zhen	Rongli Development Corp.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-085-07	Gustar, Jose E.	Michelle Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-085-07	Gustar, Orlando E.	Michelle Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Hipolito, Leonila P.	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
99-249	Huang, Hong Ying	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-117-08	Huang, Jiawei	MZ Corporation	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-147-11	Jetomo, Pablo V.	Asia West Investment dba Paradise	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Hailan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Lan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Shanji	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-038-05	Jin, Shannu	Uno Moda Corporation	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Jin, Yinghua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-119-09	Kim, Jae Jung	M&L, Ltd. and Sky International	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Kong, Jun	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Lactac, Jacquelene A.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-161-12	Larin, Estelito Z.	Tropical Productions	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Li, Dongmei	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
99-186	Li, Heng Xie	United International Corp.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Meiling	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Li, Ping	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-077-06	Li, Xiang Yang		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Xianzi	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Li, Xiaofeng	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Li, Yafan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Yinan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Li, Yingzi	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Li, Yuxue	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-001-01	Lin, Guiyue	H.I. Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
04-634	Lin, Huijuan	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
04-304	Lin, Ya Nong	Mariano K. Pangelinan	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-149-11	Liu, Haihua	CS Corporation	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Liu, Yan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Liu, Yue E	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Long, Xiaohong	K&K Corporation	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Lorenzo, Honeylyn S.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Lorenzo, Renante B.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Lorenzo, Susana L.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-003-01	Macaraeg, Jaime	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-009-02	Madrinn, Oliver M.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Magbanua, Riza B.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Mai, Tham Thi	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-005-01	Man, Jinfeng	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
06-094-07	Masangkay, Remedios E.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-107-08	Matias, Daisy P.	Jones, Joseph	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-001-01	Mempin, Alex E.	H.I. Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-009-02	Miguel, July T.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Mosquera, Merlita S.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-003-01	Nguyen, Kim Thuy Thi	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-077-06	Ni, Weixin		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-094-07	Oclarino, Agnes A.	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-115-08	Oraa, Siony O.	Seman, Vicente T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-112-08	Pacho, Orlando R.	Sablan Enterprises	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Palaganas, Edwin C.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Pan, Hongmin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-074-06	Parial, Aurora S.	Cabrera, Rosalia	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Pasamonte, Wilson M.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-111	Peng, Siqin	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-074-06	Pesado, M. Mila C.	Cabrera, Rosalia	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Piao, Fengjun	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Piao, Jiyu	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Piao, Shunni	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Piao, Xiangshan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Qu, Dehui	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Raga, Mary Grace P.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
02-209	Rahman, Md Mostafizur	Island Security Services	June 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Repe, Jo-Ann A.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-009-02	Ret, Michelle A.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-120-09	Rong, Xiaoyan	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-009-02	Roque, Willy T.	Maribeth Corp. dba Tambayan and Hot City & Tagorda, M. Teresa T.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Samson, Paquito V.	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-074-06	Sanarez, Shielyna S.	Cabrera, Rosalia	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-161-12	Sanchez, Ireneo B.	Tropical Productions	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-094-07	Santos, Jeanie DLC	Handsome Textile Saipan	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-002-01	Santos, Rosalinda R.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Savellano, Jessie J.R.	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Shen, Li	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Shen, Yuanneng	&K Corporation	une 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
07-367	Shimizu, Tomoko	EIC Mariana, Inc.	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-120-09	Shuyan, Song	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-002-01	Soriano, Rhiza S.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-002-01	Sotto, Vivean D.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-152	Su, Xuejun	Magofna, Rosalina	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Suangsiri, Chomyong	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m..
06-111-08	Suba, Moises G.	JM Sablan Co. & Tito M. Sablan	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Sun, Chunhua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Sun, Haiying	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Sun, Jing	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-143-11	Surisantos, Antonio B.	Herman's Modern Bakery	June 26, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-001-01	Tala, Marie C.N.	H.I. Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-002-01	Tingson, Jeniffer M.	Star Four Corporation	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-158-11	Tuan-Iam, Siriphorn	Cabrera, Joaquin S.	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Vu, Ngatthi	Winner's II	une 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-004-01	Wan, Yan Lin	Dela Rosa, Elinor; Xu, Hong Qin; Chen, Ce; and Hu, Min	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-095-07	Wang, Fang	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Furong	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Wang, Jinghong	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-082-06	Wang, Li	Great Sunshine Corporation	June 25, 2008	12:00 p.m.
99-249	Wang, Mei Lan	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Shulan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-163	Wang, Xan Zhen	American Sai Green Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Xiaowei	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Xue	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Wang, Yan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-159-11	Weng, Longgui	Great Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Wu, Chunyun	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Wu, Junmo	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-146-11	Wu, Shanmo	Americana Construction Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-244	Wu, Zhen Ming	Chen's Corporation	June 25, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-131-10	Xie, Bingxin	Li and Fung Exports, Ltd.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
04-634	Xie, Guangqin	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	June 25, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Xing, Wenlai	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Xu, Guibin	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Xu, Guohua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.\	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-003-01	Xu, Qian Jun	Winner's II	June 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.
99-249	Xu, Qiao Yun	Trans-Asia Garment Forte Corp.	June 27, 2008	12:00 p.m.
07-319	Xu, Xiang Ling	US CNMI Development Corp.	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-112-08	Xu, Yufeng	Sablan Enterprises	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Xu, Zhenshi	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-154-11	Xuan, Haozhe	Samsung Corporation	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-141-10	Yang, Huan	K&K Corporation	June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Yang, Meihua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-157-11	Yanto, Rommel E.	Cabrera, Francisco C.	June 25, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-076-06	Yu, Min	Rongli Development Corp.	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zang, Zhenyong	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-025-03	Zhang, Fu		June 27, 2008	9:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhang, Min	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhang, Xiangshu	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhao, Xiujuan	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-018-03	Zheng, Guo Zhen	YZL Corporation	June 27, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-120-09	Zhou, Lu Yu	RYU Corp. dba Ipukku Restaurant	June 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhu, Guiying	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.
06-005-01	Zhu, Yanhui	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.	June 26, 2008	11:00 a.m.

Nation

Small towns suffer big losses as rivers rise

OAKVILLE, Iowa (AP)—Even before the Iowa River used this town as a shortcut to the Mississippi, there wasn't much here: A post office, a convenience store, a tavern and a little restaurant.

The largest employer was a pork-and-grain producer called TriOak Foods. The company's towering grain elevator was the tallest structure for miles around.

Then the floodwaters soaking much of the Midwest turned their force on the region's small communities—most with skylines that consist only of a water tower and maybe a couple of church steeples.

As the rivers rise, these modest towns survive because neighbor helps neighbor, and the people reinforcing the levees are business owners, farmers and fellow church members who have lived there for years.

"My house is past help. So we're trying to save everybody else's," said Bethany Frank as she helped fill sandbags in a church parking lot in Oakville, about 40 miles southwest of Davenport. Her home on the outskirts of town was flooded up to the roof.

On Wednesday, Iowans assessed their losses from flooding that inundated Des Moines and Iowa City. But small towns up and down the Mississippi still awaited the worst of the flooding. Some rivers were not expected to crest until Thursday.

Storms and flooding across six states this month have killed 24 people, injured 148 and caused more than $1.5 billion in estimated damage in Iowa alone—a figure that's likely to increase as river levels climb in Missouri and Illinois.

Federal officials predicted as many as 30 levees could overflow this week, leaving industrial and agricultural areas vulnerable but sparing major residential centers. So far this week, 20 levees have overflowed.

At least 10 levees have been topped in Illinois and Missouri in recent days, including two south of tiny Gulfport, Ill., that threatened to swamp 30,000 acres of farmland near the evacuated town of Meyer, Ill.

AP

Ron Frese and Nadine O'Brien take photos across the street from the rising Mississippi River as storm clouds loom Wednesday, June 18, 2008 over Quincy, Ill.

Obama says bin Laden must not be a martyr

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Wednesday he would bring Osama bin Laden to justice in a way that wouldn't allow the terrorist mastermind to become a martyr, but he may be killed if the U.S. government finds him.

"First of all, I think there is an executive order out on Osama bin Laden's head," the Illinois senator said at a news conference. "And if I'm president, and we have the opportunity to capture him, we may not be able to capture him alive."

Obama's campaign said he was referring to a classified Memorandum of Notification that President Clinton approved in 1998—revealed in the 9/11 Commission report—that would allow the CIA to kill bin Laden if capture weren't feasible.

Obama said he wouldn't discuss what approach he would take to bring bin Laden to justice if he were apprehended. But he said the Nuremberg trials for the prosecution of Nazi leaders are an inspiration because the victors acted to advance universal principles and set a tone for the creation of an international order.

"What would be important would be for us to do it in a way that allows the entire world to understand the murderous acts that he's engaged in and not to make him into a martyr, and to assure that the United States government is abiding by basic conventions that would strengthen our hand in the broader battle against terrorism," Obama said.

Obama was questioned about bin Laden after he met with a new team of national security advisers.

Mars lander loses day of work after data glitch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Phoenix lander stopped digging soil near Mars' north pole Wednesday as engineers on Earth worked to fix a glitch that caused the loss of a day's worth of photos.

The problem was discovered late Tuesday after the spacecraft dug a trench inside a polygon-shaped surface feature that was likely caused by seasonal expansion and shrinking of ice.

The lander beamed back pictures of the trench, but an overload of data prevented it from saving images of the landscape and atmosphere in its flash memory.

Scientists said the lost data wasn't crucial.

"It's unfortunate to lose any bit of science," said mission scientist Ray Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis. "But it's not really critical stuff that you kick yourself over."

Engineers noticed Phoenix's strange behavior when it sent a piece of engineering data 45,000 times like a broken record. Normally, the lander would store the day's work in its flash memory, but the repeated data caused it to power down for the night without saving everything.

"We're rather annoyed," said project manager Barry Goldstein of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the $420 million mission.

But he said it wasn't debilitating. Engineers overcame the bug, but its cause remained unknown. Wednesday's digging was delayed to not stress Phoenix's memory.

It's the third delay since Phoenix landed in the Martian arctic on May 25 for a three-month mission. The previous work stoppages were caused

AP

This image released by NASA and acquired by NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander shows a new trench called "Snow White," in a patch of Martian soil near the center of a polygonal surface feature nicknamed "Chesire Cat."

Man with deadly skin cancer is saved by a new treatment

ATLANTA (AP)—An Oregon man, given less than a year to live, had a complete remission of advanced deadly skin cancer after an experimental treatment that revved up his immune system to fight the tumors.

The 52-year-old patient's dramatic turnaround was the only success in a small study, leading doctors to be cautious in their enthusiasm. However, the treatment reported in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine is being counted as the latest in a small series of successes involving immune-priming treatments against deadly skin cancers.

"Immunotherapy has become the most promising approach" to late-stage, death-sentence skin cancers, said Dr. Darrell Rigel, a dermatology researcher at the New York University Cancer Institute in New York who had no role in the research.

Still, the immune-priming experiments have yet to yield a consistent therapy. Even researchers who worked on the experiment involving nine patients and just one success are quick to couch the result. "This is only one patient," said study co-author Dr. Cassian Yee of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

And two years after his remarkable recovery, the patient fell out of contact with researchers and scientists do not know his current condition. The man, who lives in a small town in Oregon, has declined media interviews, Yee said.

2 women rescued from Alaska park

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Two women missing in Denali National Park were found Wednesday and reunited with worried family members, six days after heading off on what they thought would be an overnight hike.

A helicopter picked them up just outside the park about an hour after one of the hikers made a second cell phone call to her mother, park spokeswoman Kris Fister said.

Erica Nelson, 23, of Las Vegas, and Abby Flantz, 25, of Gaylord, Minn., were taken to park headquarters, where family members were waiting.

Anchorage television station KTUU showed the pair laughing with family members and eating large, overstuffed deli sandwiches as they walked to a waiting ambulance.

The women told KTUU they got lost and kept hiking.

"The terrain was a lot harder than we thought it would be, and it was farther than we thought it would be," Flantz said.

Nelson helped keep her spirits up, she said.

"I thought everything was going to be fine, stay positive," Nelson said.

The women slept at night in a tent and hiked during the day. At times, they melted snow to get water. They had no food when they were found.

The two embarked on their hike last Thursday about 15 miles from the park entrance.

When the women did not show up for work Saturday at Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge, a hotel outside the park, they were reported overdue and a search of a 100-square-mile area began.

McCain calls for building 45 nuclear reactors

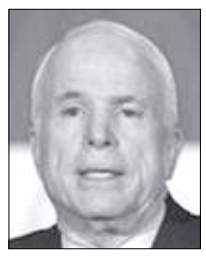
SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP)—Sen. John McCain called Wednesday for the construction of 45 new nuclear reactors by 2030 and pledged $2 billion a year in federal funds "to make clean coal a reality," measures designed to reduce dependence on foreign oil.

In a third straight day of campaigning devoted to the energy issue, the Republican presidential nominee-in-waiting also said the only time Democratic rival Barack Obama voted for a tax cut was for a "break for the oil companies."

McCain said the 104 nuclear reactors currently operating around the country produce about 20 percent of the nation's annual electricity needs.

"Every year, these reactors alone spare the atmosphere from the equivalent of nearly all auto emissions in America. Yet for all these benefits, we have not broken ground on a single nuclear plant in over thirty years," he said. "And our manufacturing base to even construct these plants is almost gone."

Even so, he said he would set the country on a course to build 45 new ones by 2030, with a longer-term goal of adding another 55 in the future.


McCain

"We will need to recover all the knowledge and skills that have been lost over three stagnant decades in a highly technical field," he conceded.

Later, at a news conference, McCain said he favors steps to reduce the time plant owners need to obtain the necessary permits. He suggested U.S. companies use common technology to shave the time in takes to bring a new nuclear facility on line. He also said a decision by President Carter three decades ago not to pursue fuel reprocessing technology should be reversed.

In an appearance before an audience at Missouri State University, McCain also said, "We will need to solve complex problems of moving and storing materials that will always need safeguarding."

Shortly after he spoke, a participant in a campaign-organized round-table discussion of energy, retired Marine Corps Gen. James Jones, said obtaining the necessary construction permits can take five years. "We should be able to cut that in half," added Jones, a former NATO commander who is now chief executive officer of the U.S. Chamber Institute for 21st Century Energy. He also is on the board of Chevron.

Jones flew to Missouri aboard the campaign's chartered jet although, ironically, Democrats recently disclosed that his name has figured in Obama campaign discussions of potential Democratic vice presidential running mates.

McCain's motorcade drove by a few dozen sign-carrying demonstrators protesting the Iraq War. One audience member interrupted his remarks by standing and shouting that the Arizona senator had taken millions from the oil industry.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ill. jury convicts former police sgt. of 4 rapes

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)—A former Bloomington police sergeant was convicted Wednesday of raping four women and stalking a fifth, ending a trial in which prosecutors said he was driven by pornography-fueled fantasies. Jeff Pelo, 43, was found guilty on 35 counts, including 25 of aggravated sexual assault. Two other charges were dropped during the trial. Pelo, who spent much of the trial looking at the table in front of him and taking notes, shook his head and sobbed as the verdict was read. His wife, Rickilee, yelled and ran from the court with the couple's three teenage children. The rapes took place from 2002 to 2005. Pelo has been jailed since his June 2006 arrest.

Teen from faith-healing family dies at Ore. home

GLADSTONE, Ore. (AP)—A 16-year-old boy whose parents rely on prayer instead of medical care has died after an illness marked by stomach pains and shortness of breath. Gladstone police say relatives and church members told them Tuesday that the teenager refused treatment for the illness, as he was entitled to do under Oregon law. "All of the interviews from last night are that he did in fact refuse treatment," said Sgt. Lynne Benton. "Unless we can disprove that, charges probably won't be filed in this case. She said state law allows minors 14 and older to make such decisions.

NC state trooper fatally shot during traffic stop

CANTON, N.C. (AP)—Authorities charged a Florida man with first-degree murder Wednesday after a state Highway Patrol trooper was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Interstate 40 in western North Carolina. Edwardo Wong II, 37, of Ormond Beach, Fla., is in custody at the Haywood County Detention Center, about 20 miles west of Asheville. He briefly appeared at a hearing Wednesday afternoon and is scheduled to appear in court again July 9, according to District Attorney Michael Bonfoey's office. Trooper David Shawn Blanton Jr., 24, was shot after he stopped a vehicle in the eastbound lanes of I-40 near exit 31 about 10:20 p.m. Tuesday, said Highway Patrol spokesman Lt. Everett Clendenin. Blanton later died at Mission Hospitals in Asheville.

Egyptian student pleads guilty to terrorist aid

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—An Egyptian college student pleaded guilty Wednesday to making a video demonstrating how to build a remote bomb detonator to help terrorists kill enemies including American soldiers. Ahmed Abdellatif Sherif Mohamed, 26, one of two University of South Florida students arrested after a South Carolina traffic stop in August, pleaded guilty to providing material support to terrorists. He faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced in September. Mohamed and fellow Egyptian student Youssef Samir Megahed were arrested after deputies stopped them for speeding near Charleston, S.C., and found what they described as pipe bombs in the trunk.

Bipartisan accord reached on war funding bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush would win $162 billion in long-overdue funding to carry out military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan into next year under a bipartisan agreement sealed on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. The agreement reached between House Democrats and Republicans and the White House—if passed into law as expected—would finally put to rest Bush's longstanding battles with congressional Democrats over war funding. House passage of the bill, expected Thursday, would also pave the way for a quick infusion of emergency flood relief for the Midwest, a 13-week extension of unemployment payments for the long-time jobless and a big boost in GI Bill college for veterans.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor - Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan , MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-023

ROUTE 101 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, ROTA
FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0101(001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Route 101 Road Improvements, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after June 13, 2008 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include (insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24,2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 1595 and as further amended by Public Law 15-] 18, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for June 30, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Secretary Office, Gualo Rai. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and conditions of the project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. local time on July 7, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Technical Services Division, 2"d Floor, Oleai Center, or fax to (670) 235-6346.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW08-IFB-023"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, July 15, 2008. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply ~~no later than 2:00 p.m. loc~~al time no later than July 15, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 15, 2008, and must be received no later than July 22,2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:00 a.m. local time, July 25, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 18, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specification for Construction and Bridges on Federal Projects FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation **(DOT)**, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the **CNMI Government.** The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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Asia

US-India nuclear deal appears shaky

NEW DELHI (AP)—The future of a landmark nuclear energy accord between India and the United States looked deeply uncertain Wednesday after India's government put off talks with powerful communist opponents of the pact.

The meeting is now scheduled to take place next week. But even if it goes ahead, it's unclear what difference it will make with the communist parties steadfast in their opposition, reinforcing doubts over whether the deal can be clinched before President Bush leaves office.

"We have several times made our position clear—we are opposed to it," Nilotpal Basu, a top official of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), told The Associated Press.

The deal would "undermine the independent foreign policy of India," he said, citing U.S. pressure on New Delhi to aid Washington's efforts to halt Iran's nuclear program. "We do not think this deal gives us any advantages."

U.S. policymakers see India as a counterweight to an evermore powerful China, and the deal reverses three decades of American policy by allowing the shipment of nuclear fuel and technology to India, which has never signed international nonproliferation accords and yet has tested atomic weapons.

India, in exchange, would allow international inspections of its civilian nuclear reactors.

For Bush, the deal—the result of two years of painstaking negotiations—would be a major foreign policy success amid the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other crises.

For India, the benefits are arguably greater. Its booming but energy-starved economy would gain access to much-needed nuclear fuel and technologies that it has long been denied because of its refusal to sign nonproliferation accords.

And even though the deal only covers civilian nuclear power, it tacitly acknowledges India as a nuclear-weapons state, giving its weapons program a degree of international legitimacy—and adding to India's growing clout.

But a wave of opposition from India's communist parties, which provide the governing coalition with its parliamentary majority, appears to have scuttled the pact for now.

AP

Earthquake survivor Zhang Xiaoyan kisses her newborn baby girl at a hospital in Urumqi, in China's western Xinjiang region Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

Baby Love born to quake victim in China

URUMQI, China (AP)—A little over a month ago, Zhang Xiaoyan lay in the rubble of her earthquake-shattered apartment building. Trapped for more than 50 hours, she prayed for the life of her unborn child.

"Even if I didn't make it, I just wanted my baby to survive," she said. "I was holding out hope during the earthquake that this day would come."

That day was Wednesday, when Zhang's daughter was born by Caesarean section in the Urumqi Maternal Care Hospital. Hours later, Zhang talked to The Associated Press as she reclined next to her newborn baby, a rosy-cheeked infant swaddled in a pink floral blanket.

Zhang's dramatic rescue in the town of Dujiangyan—captured in photos and video footage that made their way around the globe—was a rare bright spot after the May 12 earthquake that ravaged mountainous Sichuan province and killed almost 70,000 people.

Emergency workers trying not to bring down the rest of the pancaked, seven-story building pulled out Zhang, 35. A bulldozer had to raise its scoop 18 feet so workers could lay her in it. As they did, a rescuer raised a thumbs-up to the crowd of neighbors, who cheered and clapped.

The image of the eight-month pregnant Zhang being carried on a stretcher—her stomach protruding from under a blue sweater and pink pants—was played on TV screens and newspapers across China as well as in media abroad. Her 63-year-old mother also was pulled out alive.

"When we were stuck in the debris there, I just held on to the hope that we would share this time we have here now," said Zhang, who remarkably suffered only superficial injuries. "Because we were buried in there, we didn't know if we'd ever get out, and I was just thinking, 'Save my child. Save my child.'"

Zhang named her 7-pound, 4-ounce girl "Ai," or "Love," in honor of the rescuers and other strangers who have showered her with kindness, gifts and VIP treatment since she was pulled out of the wreckage.

Death toll from Japan earthquake reaches 11

TOKYO (AP)—Search teams Wednesday recovered another body from the wreckage of a hotel destroyed by a landslide following an earthquake in northern Japan, bringing the quake's death toll to 11, media reports said.

According to Kyodo News agency and national broadcaster NHK, the body was the fifth pulled from the site, which was inundated by mud, rocks and fallen trees when the hill behind the two-story inn was sent crashing down by the force of the 7.2-magnitude quake on Saturday.

The reports said about a dozen people were missing and more than 250 injured.

Officials could not immediately confirm the reports.

Two more people were believed to have been at the inn when the quake struck, but efforts to find them have been slowed by the volume of mud that has covered the site.

Arroyo: Hunt down Drilon kidnappers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered the military and police to hunt down al-Qaida-linked militants who freed a popular TV news anchor, her cameraman and a university professor they had snatched in the volatile southern Philippines, an official said Wednesday.

AP

Popular TV news anchor Ces Drilon gestures as she relates her ordeal during a news conference at the Manila Airport Wednesday June 18, 2008, in Manila, Philippines.

Arroyo announced her directive during a regional meeting of leaders of administration parties in southern Davao city.

"I have ordered the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to launch a massive manhunt for the kidnappers of Ces Drilon," she said, referring to the ABS-CBN anchor.

"We have to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf once and for all," she said. The al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf is notorious for bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

Meeting separately with armed forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano and southern Philippine military commanders, Arroyo ordered security forces to launch "intensive punitive actions against the kidnappers" of the ABS-CBN news team, Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said.

Recounting their 10-day jungle ordeal, the journalists said their Abu Sayyaf abductors—some as young as 12—tied them up and made several threats to behead them.

But after days of negotiations with local officials, the militants released Drilon and the two other captives on Jolo island before midnight Tuesday. National police chief Avelino Razon said he was unaware if a ransom was paid.

The journalists arrived in Manila from southern Zamboanga city, where a military helicopter ferried them from Jolo to be examined by doctors and debriefed by police. They had rice porridge for breakfast and were reunited with their families at a Zamboanga beach resort, Razon said.

In an earlier statement Dureza said the rejoicing over the release of the captives "must not overshadow our unrelenting efforts to bring the perpetrators to the bar of justice and face the full force of the law."

Razon said information Drilon and the other freed hostages provided will be used in operations against their kidnappers.

He told ABS-CBN the police "will not allow that the perpetrators will go unpunished."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China detains critic of schools collapsed by quake

BEIJING (AP)—A retired Chinese schoolteacher who criticized the construction of schools that collapsed in last month's powerful earthquake has been detained, a Hong Kong-based human rights organization said Wednesday. Police detained Zeng Hongling in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, on charges of "inciting state subversion," according to the Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy. Zeng wrote three articles for an overseas Web site that criticized the shoddy construction of many schools that collapsed during the devastating 7.9-magnitude quake centered in Sichuan, killing hundreds of children.

Thais rally over Cambodia border dispute

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thousands of demonstrators accused the Thai government Wednesday of yielding a disputed border region with an ancient temple to Cambodia, the latest trouble for the embattled prime minister who has been facing daily protests calling for his resignation. Led by the People's Alliance for Democracy, about 5,000 people gathered in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and accused the minister, Noppadon Pattama, of giving into the Cambodians in exchange for business concessions. The Preah Vihear temple, dating back to the 11th century, has been the subject of a boundary dispute since the 1950s. The International Court of Justice ruled in 1962 that the cliffside temple was within Cambodian territory.

Low-caste Indian group ends weeks of protests

JAIPUR, India (AP)—Leaders of one of India's lower castes reached an agreement with the government of a western Indian state on Wednesday, officials said, ending weeks of often violent protests. The Gujjar tribe began protesting on May 23 to demand that the government of Rajasthan state reclassify them as members of the lowest caste, allowing them to benefit from government quotas in higher education and government jobs. On Wednesday, after two days of talks with Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsala, the state's chief minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia told reporters that her government will create a special category for Gujjars and two other tribal groups, the Banjaras and Rewadis, and grant them 5 percent of reserved seats in government jobs and educational institutions.

US: 4 helicopter engines worth $13M missing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Four U.S. military helicopter engines worth a combined $13.2 million are missing in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, the American military said Wednesday. The engines were being shipped over land from the main U.S. base at Bagram and were destined for Fort Bragg, N.C., where the 82nd Airborne is based, said U.S. spokeswoman Lt. Col. Rumi Nielson-Green. "The components went missing en route to port—the exact location is undetermined," Nielson-Green said. The parts went missing sometime before the 101st Airborne arrived to replace the 82nd in early April, she said. They were being shipped by a Pakistani trucking company.

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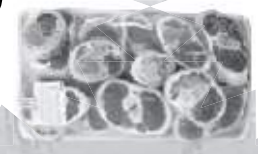

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Macaroni Restaurant 300g.	89¢
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World

WORLD BRIEFS

Sweden adopts contentious eavesdropping plan

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Sweden's Parliament narrowly approved a contentious law Wednesday that gives authorities sweeping powers to eavesdrop on all e-mail and telephone traffic that crosses the Nordic nation's borders. The right-leaning government's slim majority helped secure 143-138 approval, despite strong opposition from left-leaning parties led by Social Democrats. Supporters argued the law—which takes effect in January—will provide a level of security against potential terrorists plotting attacks. But critics have slammed it as an invasion of privacy and an infringement on civil liberties.

Somalis flee terror, pour into Kenya refugee camp

DADAAB, Kenya (AP)—Ayan Ali Hassan decided to leave Mogadishu when militiamen boarded her school bus and kidnapped two screaming boys. For Abdi Gadir Osman, the moment came when a mortar slammed into his mother's home, killing her while she slept on a hot afternoon. They are among some 20,000 Somalis who decided to flee their homeland this year, heading to the Dadaab refugee camp in eastern Kenya where they recalled a life of terror in Mogadishu. For the refugees, this dusty, sweltering expanse is still a better home than their wretched capital. Just 50 miles from the Somali border, many see the camp as a last resort.

Former detainee blames trauma on US captors

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Former detainees in U.S. military jails in Iraq and Guantanamo are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and injuries that can be traced to their imprisonment, according to a report by the Physicians for Human Rights, an advocacy group trying to determine whether accounts of abuse at American hands could be corroborated by physical evidence. It is the most extensive medical study of ex-detainees published so far. "Some of these men really are, several years later, very severely scarred," said Barry Rosenfeld, a psychology professor at Fordham University who conducted psychological tests on six of the 11 detainees covered by the study. All the prisoners were freed without charge, either innocent or not valuable enough to the military to hold.

Ex-military officer admits to African coup plot

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea (AP)—A British ex-military officer admitted in court Wednesday that he plotted to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea in 2004, saying he was glad the plan fell through. Simon Mann, 55, is accused of attempting to topple longtime dictator President Teodoro Obiang. Prosecutors allege that Mann was the ringleader of a coup plot financed by Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Prosecutors allege that Mann hoped to install an exiled opposition leader who would open up Africa's third-biggest oil producer to them.

Israel-Hamas Gaza truce goes into effect

JERUSALEM (AP)—A long-sought truce between Israel and Gaza militants went into effect early Thursday, aiming to halt militant attacks and a bruising Israeli blockade, but clashes in the hours before the cease-fire underscored how fragile the agreement would be.

Palestinian rocket and mortar fire and Israeli air reprisals continued on Wednesday ahead of the Egyptian-brokered agreement meant to end the tit for tat violence.

Hamas, the Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza for the past year, reported that the Israeli navy fired four shells into the waters off Gaza City after the truce began. But the shells fell about 500 yards from shore and there were no apparent targets in the area, witnesses reported, suggesting the shells might have been fired as part of a military drill. The military had no immediate comment.

Nearly two hours into the truce, there were no other reports of fire.

Although each side has expressed skepticism over the other's commitment to the accord, the hope is that it will avert an Israeli military invasion of the tiny seaside territory it pulled out of nearly three years ago.

Just a day before the cease-fire was set to take hold, Israel launched another diplomatic initiative - a public call on neighboring Lebanon to open peace negotiations. Lebanon's premier quickly rejected the call.

AP

Palestinian youths sit in a building destroyed in recent years in the conflict with Israel in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

The Gaza deal, which took effect at 6 a.m., is supposed to last six months. According to its terms, militants will immediately halt their attacks on Israel, and Israel will cease its raids.

After three days, Israel is to ease its blockade of Gaza to allow the shipment of some supplies to resume. A week later Israel is to further ease restrictions at cargo crossings. In a final stage, the sides are supposed to talk about opening a major border passage between Gaza and Egypt and the release of an Israeli soldier Hamas has held for two years.

Israel's blockade was imposed in an effort to pressure Hamas to stop attacks from Iranian-backed militants, who have been bombarding southern Israel with rockets and mortars for seven years.

The rate of fire increased after Israel pulled its troops and settlers out of Gaza in 2005 and stepped up further last year after Hamas wrested power from forces loyal to moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose government controls the West Bank.

"We in Hamas are committed to this calm and are interested in making it succeed," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said shortly before the truce went into effect. "The ball is now in Israel's court."

"I hope it will succeed. I believe there will be quiet in (Israel's) south," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said in a speech Wednesday to philanthropists. But he also said he instructed his military "to prepare for any operation, short or long, that might be necessary" if the truce breaks down.

A cease-fire in November 2006 lasted only weeks before unraveling.

US: Shiites behind deadly truck bombing in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military blamed a renegade Shiite militiaman on Wednesday for a truck bombing that killed 63 people in a Shiite area of Baghdad, saying he was trying to re-ignite sectarian violence for personal gain.

The allegation points to a shift in the Iraq conflict, with the U.S. military increasingly concerned about Iranian-backed Shiite splinter groups as al-Qaida's influence recedes.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast, which devastated a bustling commercial street in Hurriyah, scene of some of the bloodiest Shiite-Sunni slaughter in 2006. That fueled speculation Sunni extremists may have been behind the attack.

However, U.S. spokesman Lt. Col. Steven Stover said the American command believed the bombing was carried out by a Shiite splinter group led by Haydar Mehdi Khadum al-Fawadi, also known as Haydar al-Majidi, who has been sought for months for kidnapping, murder and other offenses.

"We believe he ordered the attack to incite (Shiite) violence against Sunnis; that his intent was to disrupt Sunni resettlement in Hurriyah in order to maintain extortion of real estate rental income to support his nefarious activities," Stover said in an e-mail.

A senior Iraqi security official told The Associated Press the investigation into the bombing was under way and that the Iraqis were not yet convinced al-Fawadi was behind the attack, the deadliest in the capital since March.

He said al-Fawadi had broken with the Mahdi Army militia led by anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, and has been running criminal operations including extortion in Hurriyah ever since. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media.

"He's a key criminal that we've been chasing for some time," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Hammond, commander of U.S. forces in Baghdad. "We believe that he's been frustrated with the significant progress that we've made" including "the willingness of tribal leaders to move on from the attacks."

Hammond said the attack was "an effort on his behalf to try to gain some authority back."

EU lawmakers pass new rules for expelling illegals

STRASBOURG, France (AP)—Europe's hardening attitudes toward immigration found a voice in the EU Parliament Wednesday, as legislators passed controversial new rules for expelling illegals amid a widening crackdown in the United States.

As the global economy slows, governments in rich countries are coming under increased pressure to act tough on immigration. While the European rules do not lay the groundwork for workplace raids like in America, they do contain contentious measures such as providing for long detention periods.

The wealthy European Union has seen a spike in tensions with immigrants: Italians blame foreigners for a rise in crime, France is grappling with violence in immigrant-heavy communities, and Belgium has come under criticism for its treatment of foreigners in detention centers.

The EU says the vast majority of the immigrants come to Europe from North Africa, former Soviet countries and the Balkans. For instance, 24,000 sub-Saharan African immigrants were caught trying to reach Spain in 2006 and 10,000 in 2007. In an indication of their desperation, more than 1,000 African immigrants also are believed to have died at sea trying to reach Spain in 2007.

The EU says the vast majority of the immigrants come to Europe from North Africa, former Soviet countries and the Balkans. For instance, 24,000 sub-Saharan African immigrants were caught trying to reach Spain in 2006 and 10,000 in 2007. Many set out in rickety boats—more than 1,000 African immigrants also are believed to have died at sea trying to reach Spain in 2007.

6th human foot found on Canada's Pacific coast

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Another human foot was found Wednesday on a British Colombia shoreline, the second this week and the sixth within a year in a bizarre mystery that has confounded police.

Like most of the others, it was a right foot encased in a running shoe, said police Sgt. Mike Tresoor. He said a citizen spotted it on a beach and no other remains were found.

The latest find and most of the others were recovered within a few miles of each other along island shorelines in the Strait of Georgia, which lies to the south and west of the provincial capital of Vancouver.

Authorities say they haven't reached any conclusions about the origin of the feet but are working to determine if there are any links to any other partial remains recovered in the province.

Local speculation has been rife with some reports claiming they belonged to victims of violent crimes or a plane crash.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have said there's no evidence the feet were severed or removed from the victims' legs by force.

Tresoor said major crime investigators from the Campbell River detachment, along with staff from the coroner's office, went to the scene to investigate.

"The object will ultimately be examined by a forensic pathologist in attempts to determine the source of the foot and if it is related to other feet recently found," Tresoor said in a statement.

Terry Smith, the chief coroner of British Columbia, said this week that DNA profiles from the first three feet have not helped to determine identities because they have not matched any existing samples.

Smith and others have suggested that the feet didn't sink but floated to shore because they were encased in buoyant running shoes.

Science & Technology

Firefox 3 downloads set record

NEW YORK (AP)—The new version of the Firefox Web browser was downloaded more than 8 million times in the first 24 hours it was available, the software's developers said Wednesday.

At its peak, Firefox's Web site was serving 17,000 copies a minute. Downloads came from some 200 countries, led by the United States, Germany, Japan, Spain and Britain.

Firefox supporters were seeking to set a world record for most software downloads in a 24-hour period. The category is new, and Guinness World Records must certify it, a process that could take a week or longer.

The free software continues to be available, but downloads won't count toward the potential record.

Tuesday's release was delayed more than an hour as visitors checking for the update overloaded Firefox's Web servers. The site was slow or unreachable for about two hours starting about 12:45 p.m. Eastern time, 15 minutes before the scheduled release time, according to AlertSite, an Internet performance monitoring company.

Firefox comes from Mozilla, an open-source community in which thousands of people, mostly volunteers, collectively develop free products. Firefox is the No. 2 Web browser behind Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer.

Firefox 3 includes enhancements to help users organize their frequently visited Web sites and block access to sites known to distribute viruses and other malicious software.

Users of Yahoo Inc.'s mail service can also use Firefox 3 to send e-mail by clicking a "mailto" link they might come across clicking on a name or a "contact us" link on a Web page. Previously such links could only open a standalone, desktop e-mail program.

Firefox 3 also offers other design and speed improvements.

Sprint's new smart phone: $129.99

NEW YORK (AP)—Sprint Nextel Corp. will be taking on the iPhone with a lower price for its own touch-screen smart phone, the Samsung Instinct.

The carrier said Wednesday that the Instinct will cost $129.99 when released on Friday. That compares with $199 for the cheapest model of the new iPhone, which goes on sale July 11 with AT&T Inc. as the carrier.

The Instinct shares many features with the new iPhone, including access to a fast wireless data network and a GPS receiver. Sprint was unusually involved in the phone's development, and plans to promote it heavily.

The new iPhone costs half as much as the old one, since AT&T is now subsidizing the hardware, much like carriers do for other phones. Previously, Apple had a unique arrangement with AT&T under which the phone was sold at full price, but Apple got a share of wireless service revenue from the carrier.

Before the announcement of the iPhone price cut, Sprint had indicated that the Instinct would cost more than $200. Afterward, it said it would match the price. Wednesday's announcement lowers the price further, and points to the intense competition in the smart-phone market, which has been very strong the last six months.

The Instinct's price is with a two-year contract and after a $100 mail-in rebate.

The purchase price of a smart phone is only a fraction of the total cost of ownership, since the phones require a data plan. The cheapest monthly plan for the Instinct will cost $69.99, which ends up closer to $80 with taxes and fees. The cost for two years of service is then about $1,900.

Study shatters myths on personal Net use at work

NEW YORK (AP)—It's no secret that people sneak in some personal e-mail and Web surfing when they're supposed to be working.

A new study attempts to shatter perceptions that these Web surfers are just slackers trying to avoid work. In fact, it turns out everyone does it, from senior managers to entry-level employees—and researchers figure that means management attempts to clamp down on Internet use may be missing the mark.

Many legitimate reasons may be at play, speculates R. Kelly Garrett, one of the study's authors and a communications professor at Ohio State University. For instance, people may use the Web at work to help balance job and life responsibilities; with the personal matters taken care of from work, they can focus on the task at hand.

"It's appropriate to just avoid the knee-jerk response that all personal Internet use is detrimental," Garrett said.

Installing filters to block access to Web sites and e-mail services could backfire by reducing job satisfaction and thus productivity, researchers wrote.

THE HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: Is there any way to get rid of all the irrelevant stuff in the Services menus of the programs on my Mac?

A: The Services menu could be one of the best parts of Mac OS X. It provides a common set of tools to your software, via a "Services" item in each program's application menu. For example, to get a word count of an e-mail message, I select the message's text, click on the Mail menu, scroll down to Services and select "Statistics..."

Unfortunately, Apple let this good idea get out of hand. Programs commonly add their own entries to the Services menu, resulting in a long list cluttered with things you don't need (say, "ChineseTextConverter" or "OpenURLinRealPlayer"). The Services menu now reminds me too much of Windows' "tray," the minefield of tiny icons at the bottom right of the desktop — a dumping ground for developers with an exaggerated sense of their software's importance.

If you run OS X 10.4 Tiger, the free Service Scrubber (manytricks.com) can delete unwanted entries, but security measures in the current version of OS X Leopard stop this application from yanking all but a handful of services. Apple needs to give users a way to clean up this mess.

■ ■ ■

Q: My Windows 98 computer throws up strange errors when I try to defragment its hard drive.

A: The point of "defragging" a drive — moving files around so the ones you open most often are next to each other and can be read faster — is to save time. So spending lots of time debugging a defragger is likely to be counterproductive, and you might as well opt out of that chore.

Instead, put the time you spent on defragging into making regular backups of your data. Ten-year-old computers don't have the best odds of seeing their 11th birthday.

Off the Wall

AP

Members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity gesture as they run naked inside the campus to mark the 100th year anniversary of University of the Philippines in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Wednesday, June 18, 2008.

100 RP students run naked

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Members of a fraternity at the University of the Philippines held their annual ritual of running naked on campus six months early on Wednesday—by official request—to celebrate the state-run school's centennial anniversary.

Hundreds of cheering students lined the main campus avenue, jostling for positions with their digital and cell phone cameras.

The "Oblation Run"—named for the university's iconic symbol of a naked man with outstretched arms that symbolizes his selfless offering of himself to the nation—started in 1977 as a gimmick by the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity to promote the screening of a movie about oppressed plantation workers called "Naked Hero." The film had been banned by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Since then, the fraternity has used the stunt to make political statements, from raising AIDS awareness to demanding the resignation of the Philippine president, said Armand Padilla, a fraternity alumnus and organizer of the centennial run.

He said the university's centennial committee requested the fraternity stage the annual nude demonstration as one of the activities to mark the school's 100th foundation year.

The fraternity mustered 100 members and alumni—the largest number of naked runners ever—for the event, he said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police arrest man running on trail in thong

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Lincoln police have a message for local joggers with exhibitionist tendencies: The thong is wrong. Police arrested a man on Saturday night for running on a Lincoln bike trail in his thong underwear. Police say the 26-year-old man was arrested for indecent exposure. Officers said they found him running around Holmes Lake wearing his socks, shoes and, of course, the thong.

Gerbil's escape from cage blamed for accident

SPRINGVILLE, Utah (AP)—Police say a teenage driver who lost control of her car while scrambling to capture her pet gerbil wasn't cited for an accident that hospitalized two people. Lt. Dave Caron said the gerbil escaped from its cage while the 17-year-old driver was southbound on state Route 51 Tuesday morning. Making a grab for the fuzzy escape artist, the driver veered off the road and hit a stranded truck hooked to another truck by jumper cables. The impact pushed the two trucks together, pinning a woman in between. She suffered a broken leg. A male co-worker helping the woman with her truck also suffered a broken leg. Both were taken to a Utah County hospital. Neither the teen nor her gerbil were hurt.

Bear strolls into McDonald's drive-through in NJ

SOUTH BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—The morning rush hour finds plenty of people in the drive-through lane at the McDonald's on busy Route 1 in South Brunswick. On Wednesday, a small bear also strolled through the lane. Police say they got three calls from motorists about 9 a.m. about the bear, which appears to be headed north in woods along the highway. The bear appears to be young and may have been the same animal spotted a day earlier near the Route 27 boundary with Franklin Township. Police say bears are unusual but nor rare in the central New Jersey township.

Man arrested twice for same alleged crime

BRIGANTINE, N.J. (AP)—If it first you don't succeed ... you probably won't the second time, either. That was the message police in Brigantine had Monday for a man they arrested for burglarizing a van. They charged and released him, only to arrest him again for allegedly doing the same thing to another vehicle almost immediately after being sprung from police custody. Frank Ermilio was charged in the first incident with burglary and theft, and released on a summons. He picked up an additional three counts of burglary and two counts of theft for the second incident before being released again on a summons. No word on where he went after that.

Students move out, but leave human skull behind

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police say some students who moved out of an apartment near the University of Pennsylvania cleared it out down to the bare bones. An assistant manager who cleaned up found a human skull on the kitchen counter. Police don't know which of the seven students who lived in the West Philadelphia apartment left the skull behind. Authorities say there is no indication any crime has occurred, but Lt. Frank Vanore says even for police it is "kind of a weird story." Vanore says the skull may have been a learning tool for medical students. Or it may have been left as a prank. Spokesman Jeff Moran of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office says a forensic anthropologist will check out the abandoned headbone to see if he can learn more.

Life & Style

The Rock plays the name game

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Here's a news flash: The Rock is no more. It's not even Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson but merely Dwayne Johnson, plain vanilla, regular guy, would-be action-hero for the text-message set.

For us mere mortals, it's always slightly mystifying to watch celebrities and their names mutate. Madonna Ciccone to Madonna. Fabio Lanzoni to Fabio. Prince Rogers Nelson to Prince to The Artist formerly known as Prince to the unruly acronym TAFKAP.

And let's not forget Sean Combs, who seems to shuffle his handle with each new business incarnation. Just last week, he posted a bizarre video on YouTube, explaining that despite rumors to the contrary, he hadn't changed his name ... again. Staring at the camera, he ranted, "But if I wanted to I could call myself anything I want because I have lived this life. ... By the way, I'm rich. . . . I would say that to any of my names."

A few years back, I was asked by a women's magazine to interview Jennifer Lopez (in her early J-Lo days) while she was getting a manicure. We were supposed to get them together into a totally faux-women's bonding moment, but she came with a very large posse, and there weren't enough manicurists to go around. So they got their fingers buffed while I stood and watched. Anyway, it was around the time she was dating Combs, a.k.a. Puff Daddy, Puffy, P. Diddy, Diddy, Sean ... . I had no idea how to refer to him so settled for "your boyfriend." (I don't think Lopez noticed much—she was busy ripping pages from a fashion magazine and handing them to an assistant/publicist/hanger-on and asking her to find the pictured item.)

Opting for a solo one-word stage name is like grabbing for the brass ring in celebrity-dom. It's a naked bid for icon status, a way to brand yourself like Kleenex or Xerox or Liberace. Going the other direction, however, is rare. It connotes artistic seriousness and the versatility needed for true art. Dana Owens to Queen Latifah and back to Dana Owens (but only when she's singing jazz). Marky Mark to Mark Wahlberg. John Cougar to John Cougar Mellencamp to just John Mellencamp.

I asked Johnson about his moniker change recently, which is being touted in "Get Smart," where Johnson plays suave Agent 23, the ultimate in spies—or in Johnson's rendition, a suavely amusing send-up of the uber agent. I guess it's hard to take an actor seriously who bills himself as The Rock (The Rock stars in Hamlet!), and the former wrestler is clearly intent on transforming himself, if not into John Gielgud exactly, at least into a family-friendly movie star.

He recently jetted back from Las Vegas, where he'd been shooting the Disney remake of "Race to Witch Mountain," in which he plays a Vegas cabby charged with helping a pair of kids with paranormal powers escape to the Luxor, where they make gobs of money in 30 seconds flat. Just kidding. They actually are fleeing the usual array of government and alien evildoers.

Johnson was perennially genial, though I suspect he keeps a Power Point presentation of his career plans in his head. "The Rock was a name, a character I created in TV. When I made the transition into film, I knew eventually I was going to be billed as my given name," he said via telephone. Real actors have real names, not just brand monikers. "I wanted the transition to happen naturally. Ten years ago (when he went into films and television), I didn't want to make an announcement or a statement, 'From this day forward, I'm an actor.' I didn't want to make a big deal about it. There was just a natural and easy way for the transition to happen."

Flash back 10 years, and Johnson was strutting around in black wrestling shorts, taunting opponents with his signature eyebrow move and boisterous trash talk. The seven-time WWE champion liked to refer to himself in the third person, as in "The Rock says," and add un-Disney-like comments such as "Keep bangin' on that door and The Rock's gonna' lay the smack down on your candy ass."

Even then, "The Rock" wasn't his first incarnation. The 36-year-old, part African Canadian and part Samoan, had done a stint as a college football player for the Miami Hurricanes and had been a short-lived pro player for the Calgary Stampeders. He first tried wrestling under his given name, then with a stage name of Flex Kavana. He later morphed into a baby-faced good-guy wrestler called Rocky Maivia.

"My father and grandfather were professional wrestlers," Johnson said. "Rocky's my dad's first name, and Maivia was my grandfather's last name. The company thought it was a good idea to merge the two names together out of respect for my father and grandfather," and all the marketing possibilities.

In 1998, Johnson dumped their names for The Rock, because, as he says, "I just wanted to make it on my own." He also tweaked his persona, changing into a mouthy bully as part of the "Nation of Domination." When the fans stopped ritualistically booing him, Johnson overhauled his act again. "My intent and goal was to inject humor in as many places as I could within the structure of the show. Humor was not a big part of that world. For me, the goal was never to be the biggest, loudest and toughest guy. The goal was to be the most entertaining."

Given his physique, Hollywood initially tried to send Johnson the action route, with such fare as "The Scorpion King" and "The Rundown." But times have changed since the '80s and '90s when he-men like Sylvester Stallone, Steven Seagal and Arnold Schwarzenegger strode the cinema colossus. Action heroes these days are sleek like Christian Bale or Will Smith or boyish like Tobey Maguire or smart like Robert Downey Jr.

These days, killer pecs are an ironic accouterment best suited for comedies like "Get Smart" or family films because kids, unlike adults, still see giant men as powerful. Johnson's career exploded with last year's Disney flick "The Game Plan," a Mr. Mom-style comedy with Johnson as a vain professional football player doomed to care for a little girl. And Johnson, who has a 6-year-old daughter, seems perfectly content to be a Disney-style guy.

After "Witch Mountain," he's donning wings to play the tooth fairy—yes, the one that puts money under your pillow in exchange for molars and bicuspids in "Tooth Fairy." "With high-concept comedies like that, it's always about the collisions of worlds," Johnson says. In this case, it's a powerhouse of masculinity "being forced begrudgingly to become the tooth fairy."

Johnson talks about structuring his career like Tom Hanks or Will Smith, Everymen who appeal to all quadrants, but in truth, he most closely resembles Schwarzenegger, when he segued from "The Terminator" into "Twins" and "Kindergarten Cop." Indeed, Schwarzenegger himself once toyed with playing a version of the tooth fairy before bailing out for another arena ripe for self-re-creation, politics.

So I asked Johnson what he wanted people to call him, if they ever ran into the star while he's working out or having a cappuccino. Johnson isn't fussy like Edward Norton, who mandates that he is never, ever called Ed.

"They call me both," says Johnson. "Rock is a nickname, and it will always be. I'm fine with that. It sounds better than Cupcake."

> 'The Rock was a name, a character I created in TV. When I made the transition into film, I knew eventually I was going to be billed as my given name.'

Dwayne Johnson arrives at the premiere of "Get Smart" in Los Angeles on Monday, June 16, 2008. AP

'Rembrandt Laughing' is self-portrait

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—The auction house thought the portrait was a 17th century Rembrandt knock-off, and valued it at just $3,100. But the British buyer who paid about 1,500 times more than that apparently knew what he was doing.

Experts have confirmed "Rembrandt Laughing"—bought for a bargain price of $4.5 million at an English auction house in October—is a self-portrait by the Dutch master himself, depicted with his head tilted back in easy-going laughter.

William Noortman from Noortman Master Paintings, specializing in Dutch and Flemish masters, said it's worth $30 million to $40 million, adding: "I'm very surprised it didn't make more at auction."

The 9 1/2-inch-by-6 1/2-inch painting will hang in the Rembrandt House Museum in Amsterdam through June 29, on loan from the anonymous Briton who bought it at the auction by Moore, Allen and Innocent in Gloucestershire and had it cleaned and examined by British experts.

Art expert Jan Six from another auction house, Sotheby's, declined to put a new value on the painting. But he said the sale itself was a rare opportunity, as Rembrandt's works come on the market only once every few years.

"A self-portrait by Rembrandt, that's absolutely unique—not in my lifetime," Six said.

Rembrandt made the self-portrait about 1628, when he was in his early 20s and still in his hometown, Leiden. Already he was earning his reputation as an artist, and experimenting with a mirror and his own face to capture expressions.

"It has an incredible presence," said Ernst van de Wetering, head of the Rembrandt Research Project and an authority on the Dutch master. "The light has the most natural quality of light you can think of. ... and I love the naturalness of the laughing."

The painting previously had been in the hands of an English family for more than 100 years, according to Moore, Allen and Innocent. Some had assumed it to be by one of Rembrandt's students or a Rembrandt imitator.

Van de Wetering said he thought the auction house's low evaluation had been based on poor photographs that showed little of the painting's luminosity or depth.

AP

In this handout photo released Thursday, June 12, 2008, by the Rembrandt House Museum, the 1628 self-portrait "Rembrandt Laughing" by Rembrandt is seen, in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

But in a 23-page analysis published Friday, Van de Wetering described why Rembrandt was almost certainly the creator of the little work: Brush stroke, contour, materials and the monogram all point to the master's hand.

The auction's winner may have suspected the painting was a genuine Rembrandt from the monogram RHL, painted in a rare style that the artist only used for about a year. It stands for Rembrandt Harmenszoon of Leiden. The auction house wrote the signature as "HL" in its assessment.

The initials become more compelling proof when considering that they were painted onto the wet paint of the background, and that the direction of the brush strokes match another monogram known to be Rembrandt's.

Experts also were confused by the shape of the laughing Rembrandt's body. The clothing—a woolly blanket, metal armor and glossy shirt—appear amorphous, lying in lumpy folds with little description of the anatomy below. Yet the contour has a character of its own, one that is repeated in some of his later works.

"If you look at this contour, it has a certain autonomy," Van de Wetering said, adding that it may have been one of the first times Rembrandt tested out this way of painting the body.

The thin copper plate on which the piece is painted matches in size and type with others used in other Rembrandt paintings.

X-rays reveal a second painting underneath—its content and composition also consistent with other Rembrandt works.

It is unclear where the painting had been before 1800, when a Flemish engraver made a reproductive print and attributed the original to the Dutch painter Frans Hals without realizing the face in the picture was that of Rembrandt.

"After that there is silence about the painting; we don't know where it stayed," Van de Wetering said.

Harry Potter devotees put wizard tales to music

POTOSI, Mo. (AP)—Jen Leffler first escaped into the world of Harry Potter as an adolescent in suburban Chicago. A decade later, the love affair continues. Only now, it means taking road trips to concerts across the country.

Inspired by the characters and story lines from J.K. Rowling's intricate fantasy world, hundreds of bands devoted to the Potter experience have formed in recent several years.

The genre has its own name (wizard rock) and fashion sensibility (checkered scarves and askew neck ties replicate the Hogwarts school uniform) as well as a do-it-yourself aesthetic (most acts book their own shows).

With a decidedly youthful and literate audience, bands such as Draco and the Malfoys, Tom Riddle and Friends and the Moaning Myrtles are as likely to gig in public libraries, bookstores or church basements as at rock clubs.

But the movement has grown big enough to support its own summer festival circuit. On Memorial Day weekend, more than 300 devotees gathered at a YMCA summer camp lodge in the Ozark foothills for Wrockstock 2008, a wizard rock extravaganza featuring 15 bands over three days.

Later this summer, similar events will happen in New York, Chicago and even De Pere, Wis., near Green Bay.

"A lot of people don't have a lot of friends where they come from," said Leffler, who plans to move to Louisville to join a friend she first met online in a wizard rock discussion forum. "And then they find 200 friends here."

While the band names and lyrics pay homage to Rowling's elaborate fictional universe, the music is all over the map, from pensive singer-songwriters with acoustic guitars to blue-eyed soul and banjo-inflected country.

AP

Fans record images of "The Moaning Myrtles," Nina Jankowicz, 19, on stage at left, and Lauren Fairweather, 19, right, both of Hillsboro, N.J., as they perform during a concert Saturday, May 24, 2008, in Potosi, Mo.

"People might assume that music based on Harry Potter would be kind of gimmicky and shallow," said Matt Maggiacomo, the one-man band known as the Whomping Willows.

Maggiacomo, 29, is a veteran of the Providence, R.I., music scene. But it wasn't until he discovered wizard rock that he was able to quit his day job as technical writer and focus on music full time. A crowd of 500 rapt listeners attended his first show.

"This was my first show where everyone was focused on the music," he said. "A lot of times (before), there were 15 people in the crowd, and they were focused on getting drunk, or talking to other people."

The Missouri festival attracted fans from as far away as Scotland, Wales, Quebec, British Columbia and South Africa—many of whom were visiting the country for the first time.

Gregorio Muna Quitugua

Known as 'Tun Goru' Ankoi
Born on September 6, 1930
Died on May 18, 2008

Predeceased by:
Parents: Jose Diaz Quitugua and Maria Santos Muna Quitugua
Parents-In-Law: Ignacio Diaz Borja and Ana Arriola Borja
Sister: Susana Q. Babauta
Brothers: Jesus M. Quitugua and Fermin M. Quitugua
Brothers-In-law: Antonio S. Palacios, Calistro C. Ada, Jose C. Muna
Sisters-In-Law: Magdalena B. Palacios, Rosa Camacho Borja, Matilde T. Quitugua, Olympia Selepeo Borja, Maria Sablan Quitugua
Numerous others: Godparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends

Survived by:
Wife: Luise Borja Quitugua
Children:
Elbert & Jane Rodriguez Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Frank & Anicia Q. Tomokane, children and grandchildren
Abraham & Rosa Sablan Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Noel & Marcy Rasa Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Moses & Teresa Eugenio Quitugua, children and grandchildren
Mark & Maggie Pangelinan Quitugua and children
Alan & Miyang Q. Aguon, children and grandchild
Al & Manding Q. Camacho and children
Raymond & Nora Arriola Quitugua and children

Brother: Ricardo M. Quitugua
Brothers-In-Law: Eugenio A. Borja and Carlos A. Borja
Sisters-In-Law: Luisa Matagolai Quitugua, Auria A. Borja, Josepha B. Ada, Consolacion B. Muna

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and beloved friends

Nightly rosary led by Ms. Juanita C. Guerrero is at Kristo Rai Church at 7:30.
Tun Goru will be at Kristo Rai Church on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 8 a.m.
Mass will be at 1:00 p.m. and Burial will follow immediately at the Sanctuario in Kagman.

Thalia unveils new album 'Lunada'

NEW YORK (AP)—Thalia started to give birth to her new album while she was eight months' pregnant with her daughter.

"I had had it," the singer told The Associated Press before a party Tuesday at a Manhattan nightclub to unveil her new work. "And the only thing I could think about were bikinis, suntan lotion, beer and the beach.

"So I began to think to myself, `Hey! What was that song I liked last summer in Argentina? "Sangre Caliente" ("Hot blood")!' And when I went with my friends to (the Mexican beach resort of) Ixtapa, which one was it? That's right! The one by Juan Gabriel!' ... That's how `Lunada' was born."

"Lunada" features 11 cuts, most notably the single "Ten Paciencia," or "Have Patience." It includes both new songs such as "Bendita" ("Blessed")—which she composed for her now 8-month-old daughter Sabrina Sakae—and new versions of old classics: "Insensible" ("Insensitive") by Juan Gabriel and "Isla Para Dos" ("Island for Two") by Nano Cabrera. Co-produced by Emilio Estefan, it goes on sale next week.

"Blessed" came to her while she was in a car en route to the recording studio. "I started to feel in my heart the words and the melody that it had to have. I began to write it on a napkin—to write it and write it and write it—and I arrived at the studio and ... I began to sing it."

The 36-year-old singer—who has sold more than 12 million albums worldwide and whose hits include "Amor a la Mexicana" ("Love Mexican Style") and "Piel Morena" ("Brown Skin")—said she has become a lot calmer since she became a mother.

"I think that, in general, I'm more relaxed. I'm less compulsive than I used to be, less of an obsessive worker. Now I enjoy myself and just try to relax and wait. What's gonna happen in life will happen. Don't chase it! Everything will come whenever it has to come."

Thalia, who married 58-year-old music executive Tommy Mottola seven years ago, said balancing family and career is a question of priorities.

"You have to know which are your priorities, and it's so clear (to me): My family is No. 1," she said.

Asked how she maintains her relationship with Mottola, she replied:

"It is just like a relationship made in heaven, seriously. We are partners. We are very much the same. We like the same things, we do the same stuff, we like the same food, we just have a good time all the time. We respect each other, we respect our dreams, our careers, our things and we share life in a great way."

AP

Singer Thalia laughs as she poses for photographers at a news conference for her new album "Lunada" Tuesday, June 17, 2008 in New York.

Michelle Obama grateful for first lady's defense

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michelle Obama said Wednesday she was "touched" that first lady Laura Bush came to her defense after she was harshly criticized by Republicans for her February comment that for the first time in her adult life she was proud of the United States.

Obama, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, later clarified her remarks, saying she had always been proud of her country and was particularly proud to see so many people involved in the political process.

In an interview last week with ABC, Bush said, "I think she probably meant 'I'm more proud,' you know, is what she really meant." She said comments in a campaign are closely watched and can be misconstrued.

Michelle Obama told the women of ABC's "The View" that she sent Bush a note for her remarks.

"It took me a while to write it. It's like, how do I address her?" she said. "I said dear madam first lady."

Obama did not elaborate on the contents of the letter because she said Bush might not have received it yet.

"But I was touched by it," Michelle Obama said. "And that's what I like about Laura Bush. You know, just calm, rational approach to these issues. And you know, I'm taking some cues. I mean, there's a balance. There's a reason why people like her. It's because she doesn't, sort of, you know, fuel the fire."

At a campaign stop in February, Michelle Obama told an audience in Milwaukee: "For the first time in my adult life, I am really proud of my country. Not just because Barack is doing well, but I think people are hungry for change."

Cindy McCain, wife of Republican presidential contender John McCain, later sought to capitalize on the remark, saying "I have, and always will be, proud of my country."

Michelle Obama, a guest host on the popular talk show, talked about the presidential campaign and helped the show's regular hosts interview actor Matthew Broderick.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

RBMA

Rihanna has a No. 3 hit with "Take a Bow."

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week
1. Leona Lewis No. 1 "Bleeding Love" (Syco/3)
2. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 5 "Lollipop" (Cash Money)
3. Rihanna No. 2 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
4. Usher feat. Young Jeezy No. 4 "Love In This Club" (LaFace)
5. Jordin Sparks duet with Chris Brown No. 3 "No Air" (19/Jive)
6. David Cook new entry "The Time of My Life" (Freemantle/19/RCA)
7. Madonna feat. Justin Timberlake No. 6 "4 Minutes" (Warner Bros.)
8. Ray J & Yung Berg No. 7 "Sexy Can I" (Knockout/Deja 34)
9. Danity Kane No. 9 "Damaged" (Bad Boy)
10. Natasha Bedingfield No. 8 "Pocketful of Sunshine" (Phonogenic)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. 3 Doors Down new entry "3 Doors Down" (Universal Republic)
2. Bun-B new entry "II Trill" (J Prince/Trill/Rap-A-Lot 4 Life)
3. Julianne Hough new entry "Julianne Hough" (Mercury Nashville)
4. Frank Sinatra No. 2 " Nothing But the Best" (Reprise)
5. Death Cab For Cutie No. 1 "Narrow Stairs" (Barsuk/Atlantic)
6. Leona Lewis No. 5 "Spirit" (SYCO/J)
7. Mariah Carey No. 6 "E=MC2" (Island)
8. Duffy No. 4 "Rockferry" (Mercury)
9. Madonna No. 8 "Hard Candy" (Warner Bros.)
10. Neil Diamond No. 7 "Home Before Dark" (Columbia)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Brad Paisley No. 1 "I'm Still a Guy" (Arista Nashville)
2. Phil Vassar No. 2 "Love is a Beautiful Thing" (Universal South)
3. James Otto No. 3 "Just Got Started Lovin' You" (Warner Bros.)
4. Rascal Flatts No. 4 "Every Day" (Lyric Street)
5. Lady Antebellum No. 5 "Love Don't Live Here" (Capitol Nashville)
6. Kenny Chesney No. 8 "Better As a Memory" (BNA)
7. Carrie Underwood No. 7 "Last Name" (Arista)
8. Blake Shelton No. 11 "Home" (Warner Bros.)
9. Montgomery Gentry No. 10 "Back When I Knew It All" (Columbia)
10. George Strait No. 6 "I Saw God Today" (MCA Nashville)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Sex and the City (R) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
2. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
3. The Strangers (R) Liv Tyler, Scott Speedman
4. Iron Man (PG-13) Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard
5. The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes
6. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
7. Baby Mama (PG-13) Tina Fey, Amy Poehler
8. Speed Racer (PG) Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci
9. Made of Honor (PG-13) Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan
10. Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) Kristen Bell, Jason Segel

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Nicolas Cage (Disney)
2. Mad Money (PG-13) Diane Keaton (Starz/Anchor Bay)
3. Untraceable (R) Diane Lane (Sony Pictures)
4. Strange Wilderness (R) Steve Zahn (Paramount)
5. P.S. I Love You (PG-13) Hilary Swank (Warner)
6. The Great Debaters (PG-13) Denzel Washington (Genius/Weinstein)
7. First Sunday (PG-13) Ice Cube (Sony Pictures)
8. 27 Dresses (PG-13) Katherine Heigl (Fox)
9. The Golden Compass (PG-13) Nicole Kidman (New Line)
10. Juno (PG-13) Ellen Page (Fox)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Untraceable (R) (Sony Pictures)
2. The Great Debaters (PG-13) (Weinstein)
3. Indiana Jones: The Adventure Collection (NR) (Paramount)
4. Mad Money (PG-13) (Starz)
5. P.S. I Love You (PG-13) (Warner)
6. 27 Dresses (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
7. Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (PG-13) (Paramount)
8. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (PG-13) (Paramount)
9. Alvin and The Chipmunks (PG) (20th Century Fox)
10. Juno (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)

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Get Smart

Fri and Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
Sun - Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Maxwell Smart is on a mission to thwart the latest plot for world domination by the evil crime syndicate known as KAOS. When the headquarters of U.S. spy agency Control is attacked and the identities of its agents compromised, the Chief has no choice but to promote his ever-eager analyst Maxwell Smart, who has always dreamt of working in the field alongside stalwart superstar Agent 23. Smart is partnered instead with the lovely-but-lethal veteran Agent 99. Given little field experience and even less time, Smart--armed with nothing but a few spy-tech gadgets and his unbridled enthusiasm—must thwart the doomsday plans of KAOS head Siegfried.

The Love Guru

Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sun - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15

Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Guru Pitka was once an ordinary American child, until his family left him at the gates of an Indian ashram to be raised by the exhaulted Guru Tugginmypuddha. Growing up in the small fishing village of Harenmahkeester, Pitka was schooled in the inner secrets of spiritual attainment along with his friend and sole rival, Deepak Chopra. But now, Chopra is a massive celebrity in America, and Pitka is still playing second-fiddle without even an "Oprah" episode on his resume. Determined to share his unending insights into the nature of life and get famous to boot, Pitka responds to a fateful call for help from Jane Bullard, owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team.

★ ★ ★

Incredible Hulk

Fri and Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 9:55
Sun - Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:00

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

In this new beginning, scientist Bruce Banner desperately hunts for a cure to the gamma radiation that poisoned his cells and unleashes the unbridled force of rage within him: The Hulk. Living in the shadows—cut off from a life he knew and the woman he loves, Betty Ross—Banner struggles to avoid the obsessive pursuit of his nemesis, General Thunderbolt Ross, and the military machinery that seeks to capture him and brutally exploit his power. As all three grapple with the secrets that led to The Hulk's creation, they are confronted with a monstrous new adversary known as The Abomination, whose destructive strength exceeds even The Hulk's own.

The Happening

Fri and Sat 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sun - Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:20

Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

Fri and Sat 1:15 4:10 7:05 9:50
Sun - Thurs 1:15 4:10 7:05

Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Kung Fu Panda

Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sun - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

You Don't Mess with the Zohan

Fri and Sat 1:20 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sun - Thurs 1:20 4:05 7:25

Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Bono, Geldof press G-8 on aid to Africa

PARIS (AP)—Bono, Bob Geldof and other celebrities pressed the world's wealthiest countries Wednesday to come through with more pledged financial aid for Africa.

The Irish rock stars-turned-activists presented a new report that found the Group of Eight countries have collectively donated a fraction of the $22 billion in extra funds they pledged in 2005 to be paid by 2010.

"What this big, long, exact, cold and brutal analysis shows us is that halfway to this historic date of 2010—halfway—these wealthy countries ... have delivered 14 percent. How tragic is that?" Geldof told reporters in Paris.

"What a failure for all of us," he said.

The report by Data, an advocacy group aimed at wiping out extreme poverty and AIDS in Africa, says targeted aid is working, but countries are falling behind in their commitments.

Bono, Geldof, singer Angelique Kidjo, tennis star-turned-singer Yannick Noah and aid workers laid out the findings in Paris, partly to put pressure on France near the July 1 start of its presidency of the European Union.

The report said that 2.1 million Africans are on life-saving AIDS drugs, up from 50,000 in 2002; that 26 million children were immunized against life-threatening diseases from 2001 to 2006; and that 29 million children in Africa entered school for the first time between 1999 and 2005 because of debt relief and increased aid.

It also said that France's assistance to sub-Saharan Africa fell $66 million from 2006 to 2007; that Germany, Italy and Canada are off "track;" and that "more is needed" from Japan. The United States and Britain appear set to meet their targets by 2010, it said.

Rascal Flatts to join Boston Pops on July 4

BOSTON (AP)—Rascal Flatts will play with the Boston Pops on the banks of the Charles River during a July 4 concert to be broadcast on CBS.

The country music group says they will play some of their hits with the Pops and conductor Keith Lockhart. Rascal Flatts' hits include "Take Me There," "What Hurts the Most," "Bless the Broken Road."

The concert—which also features traditional patriotic songs and fireworks—will be the Pops' 35th free outdoor show on Independence Day.

Craig Ferguson, host of "The Late Late Show" will host the telecast from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

J.Lo visits elementary school graduation

NEW YORK (AP)—Students at a Staten Island, New York, elementary school for autistic children sure like the way Jennifer Lopez moves.

Teacher Kathy Amati and a paraprofessional showed the video for Lopez's "Let's Get Loud" to the students at P.S. 37. The children liked it so much, they wanted to watch it every day.

They learned the lyrics and the dance moves from the video.

With their teacher's encouragement, they wrote to Lopez, hoping for pictures or an autograph. Instead, she asked to come to their graduation.

The Bronx-born singer-actress visited P.S. 37 on Tuesday for the graduation ceremony of a group of 10- and 11-year-olds.

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2007 file photo, Jennifer Lopez performs at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Celebrity psychic loses lawsuit over ex-Elvis home

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Celebrity psychic Uri Geller and two partners have lost a federal lawsuit claiming the former owners of Elvis Presley's pre-Graceland house breached an eBay contract to sell the Memphis home.

Geller, who gained fame in the 1970s for his alleged power to bend spoons and other objects with his mind, and his partners bid $905,100 for the ranch-style home in a 2006 auction by owners Cindy Hazen and Mike Freeman.

But the deal fell apart. Hazen said Geller's group altered terms of the real estate deal so that it was unacceptable. Geller said Hazen and Freeman reneged on the deal in order to sell it for more to Nashville record producer Mike Curb, who bought the house for $1 million.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Jon McCalla ruled that the eBay auction was more of an advertising vehicle than a binding sale.

Even if it was a contract, the judge said, Geller and his partners breached it when they altered the closing terms after the sale.

"I'm relieved that this is all over," Hazen told the Memphis newspaper The Commercial Appeal.

Presley bought the four-bedroom, 3,000-square-foot house in 1956 with his early song royalties. The singer, his parents and grandmother lived there for 13 months before throngs of fans forced them to move to more secluded Graceland in 1957.

Curb plans to let Rhodes College use the home as part of a new Mike Curb Music Institute.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I noticed a new season of "The Next Food Network Star" is about to air. Whatever happened to the previous one? I believe her name was Amy.—Barbara K., via e-mail.

A: Season 3's winner, Amy Finley, had her own series on The Food Network, "The Gourmet Next Door," which aired for six episodes. Amy was known for teaching viewers how to turn everyday meals into gourmet feasts. Just this past May, Amy revealed that she had turned down the opportunity to host a second season of her show, not wanting deal with the stress of the obligations foisted upon a television star. She and her family are currently residing in Burgundy, France.

■ ■ ■

Q: Will that excellent show "The Unit" be back in the fall? Dennis Haysbert and all the rest of the cast were superb, and my husband and I will be heartbroken if it doesn't return.—Andrea from Vermont

A: Don't you worry, Andrea, former President Palmer and his crew will be back on CBS this fall to begin their fourth season of "The Unit." The writers' strike abruptly halted things for this popular series, with only 11 episodes airing for the third season. The fourth season promises to bring much of the same production excellence, only this time, with more episodes.

Dennis Haysbert

On that note, I want to assure Peggy from Ohio that fellow CBS drama "Criminal Minds" has also been picked up for the 2008-'09 television season.

■ ■ ■

Q: I'm a big fan of "Laverne and Shirley." Can you tell me what happened to David Lander? I heard that he had passed away.—Connie S., Norwood, N.C.

A: David Lander is alive and well and living in California. In 1999, David disclosed he had been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 15 years prior, but had been keeping it private. He is now a goodwill ambassador for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He also keeps busy doing voiceover work for various cartoons, such as "Grim & Evil," and he co-starred in the critically lauded short film "Tomoko's Kitchen."

Along with acting, David also is a baseball talent scout for Seattle Mariners. In 2000, he wrote an autobiography titled "Fall Down Laughing: How Squiggy Caught Multiple Sclerosis and Didn't Tell Nobody."

■ ■ ■

Q: I really liked the movie "Walk the Line" with Joaquin Phoenix. I was wondering if Joaquin sang the songs in the movie, or if they used the voice of Johnny Cash?—Anna, Ft. Myers, Fla.

A: Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon—as Johnny and June Carter Cash, respectively—both did their own singing for the movie. Joaquin even learned to play guitar for the role. He and Reese both were nominated for the Best Actor and Best Actress Academy Award, with Reese taking home the prize. Joaquin won the Golden Globe and a Grammy Award for his efforts.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Personnel officer warns new hires against overexposure

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I work in the personnel office of a municipality. We will soon be hiring new staff for the school system, and each year I am amazed by some of the behavior I see. Allow me to offer a few tips for new hires in ANY business.

(1) Please dress appropriately. I'm sure you did for the interview, so do it again when you stop by personnel. Before you leave your home, bend over in front of a mirror as if you were at a desk or counter. And check both the front and back views. I have seen parts of the anatomy that should be viewed only by your doctor or spouse. Also, that floral tattoo on your abdomen may be cute in a bikini, but it's inappropriate for an office.

(2) Please leave your children at home. You must have hired a sitter for your interview. Please do it again for your visit to personnel. While we try to explain your health insurance and other benefits to you, you should not be chasing a 2-year-old around the office or down the hall.

(3) Please turn off your cell phone. This is not an appropriate time to discuss a luncheon date with your neighbor. Also, if your family can't survive 20 minutes without speaking to you, perhaps you should not be in our office.

SEEN IT ALL IN CENTRAL MAINE

DEAR SEEN IT ALL (and I'm sure you have): Thank you for your commonsense suggestions. Different offices hold employees to different standards of dress and behavior. Until a new employee is certain of what those standards are, the sensible thing to do is to err on the side of conservatism in both manner and dress. A word to the wise ...

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Summer begins tomorrow, and many parents are wondering how to keep their children entertained. I have a simple no-cost answer to that dilemma: Visit your local library.

Most libraries offer summer programs for kids that not only encourage them to read, but also provide access to wonderful educational opportunities. Libraries offer adult programs as well, which allow us parents a chance to enjoy a few good books while demonstrating to our kids how much fun it is to read.

My children are excited to be a part of the summer program, and I am thrilled that they have something to look forward to.

BOOK MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR BOOK MOM: Great suggestion. There are exciting new worlds to be explored by both children and adults between the covers of books. Although it can vary by region, some libraries offer programs for children that include reading clubs, puppet shows, story time, and sometimes more. Parents should check to see what's available, because learning what a valuable resource the public library is, is an important lesson in itself.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have two children under the age of 4. When they address adults -- including baby sitters -- I have taught them to preface it with "Ms." or "Mr." and the person's first name. We consider it a form of respect, and although I realize that each parent has her (or his) own take on this, it has begun to bother me when their children address us by our first names. Am I making a big deal out of nothing?

WONDERING IN LIVONIA, MICH.

DEAR WONDERING: As you point out, different families have different standards. Because you prefer to be called "Ms.," bring it not only to the attention of the child, but also to the child's parent, and your wishes should be respected.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

GOSH, THIS WATER'S COLD! HERE, THAT'S ALL I COULD FIND DOWN THERE. GO GET ME A TOWEL, CALVIN.
IT NEVER FAILS. THE ONE BAG THE KID DUMPS IN THE DRINK HAS ALL THE FRAGILE AND PERISHABLE ITEMS IN IT.
WELL, THE WEEK CAN ONLY IMPROVE FROM HERE.
ONE WOULD LIKE TO THINK SO.
HEY, DAD, DID YOU MEAN TO STACK THE TACKLE BOX AND ALL THIS ON YOUR GLASSES?
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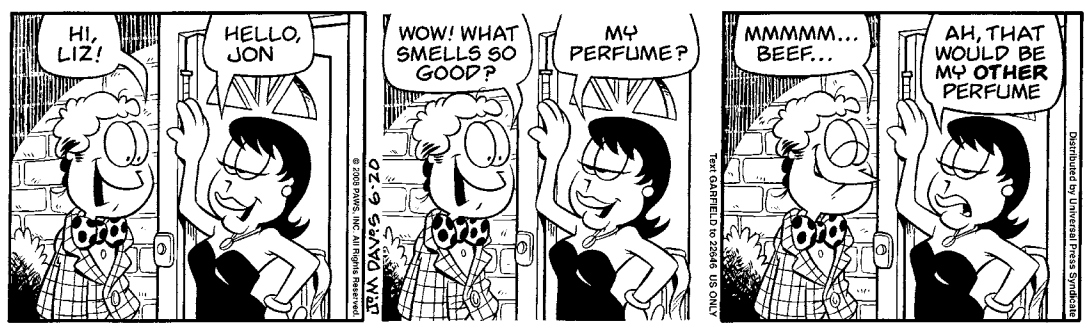
WATTERSON
6/20

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


HI, LIZ!
HELLO, JON
WOW! WHAT SMELLS SO GOOD?
MY PERFUME?
MMMMM... BEEF...
AH, THAT WOULD BE MY OTHER PERFUME
JIM DAVIS 6-20
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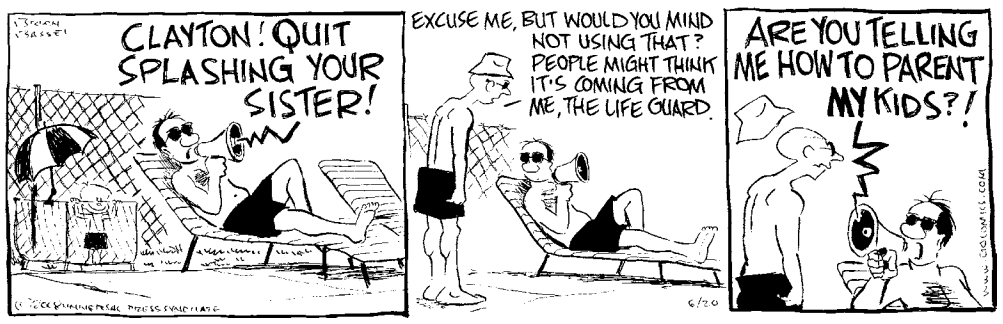
Text GARFIELD to 23646 US ONLY

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON! QUIT SPLASHING YOUR SISTER!
EXCUSE ME, BUT WOULD YOU MIND NOT USING THAT? PEOPLE MIGHT THINK IT'S COMING FROM ME, THE LIFE GUARD.
ARE YOU TELLING ME HOW TO PARENT MY KIDS?!
6/20

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hey, ELVIN. Check out the Hottie by the JukeBox.
Too Much TRASH in the Tire Well.
I Believe the expression is "Too Much JUNK in the TRUNK."
I ALWAYS Get THAT Mixed UP.
Glenn McCoy
6-20

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

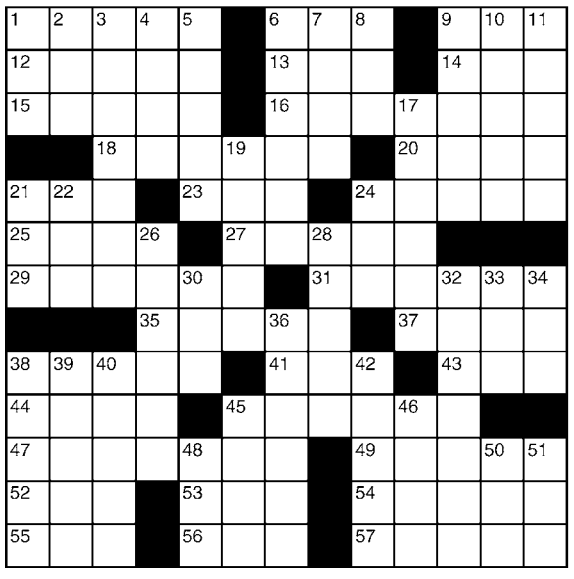
ACROSS
1 Strips in the kitchen?
6 Anger
9 Electrical unit
12 Division symbols
13 "Casablanca" pianist
14 Born
15 Prove false
16 Eye specialist
18 Setting
20 Mislay
21 Parisian pal
23 Bygone times, in bygone times
24 Actress Claire
25 Slamdance
27 Four-wheeled dud
29 Spud
31 Famed Israeli author
35 Unprofitable, as a situation
37 Normandy town
38 Duck
41 Coquettish
43 Basketballer Ming
44 Lion's pride?
45 Antenna
47 Lance Armstrong, e.g.
49 The 400
52 Moray, for one
53 Conk out
54 "Star Wars" weapon
55 Anteceding
56 Son-gun link
57 Dissuade

DOWN
1 Ray's longtime partner
2 Honest politician?
3 Ma or Casals
4 Hodgepodge
5 Family member
6 Tristan's love
7 "The Amazing —"
8 Ostrich's kin
9 Satirical newspaper, with "The"
10 "Steppenwolf" author
11 Apportions (out)
17 Latin American plains
19 Let
21 Pump up the volume
22 Cattle call?
24 Comical DeLuise
26 "Messiah" composer
28 Estate
30 "Piggy"
32 Hairdresser
33 Slangy suffix
34 Menagerie
36 Summertime quencher
38 Host
39 Tier
40 "I give up!"
42 Give up
45 "— I didn't know"
46 Wings
48 Altar affirmative
50 Ball-bearing item
51 Mess up

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	A	Y	S	■	M	A	D	■	E	S	S	E
O	P	E	N	■	A	L	I	■	G	E	E	K
O	S	L	O	■	R	E	S	■	G	L	E	E
F	E	L	O	N	Y	■	C	A	N	A	R	D
■	■	■	D	O	H	■	■	N	O	W	■	■
C	A	B	S	■	A	W	A	Y	G	A	M	E
A	I	R	■	■	R	O	N	■	■	R	A	W
P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	■	E	D	G	E
■	■	D	O	I	■	■	E	T	C	■	■	■
C	A	P	O	T	E	■	R	O	L	L	O	N
U	R	I	S	■	U	P	I	■	A	I	D	A
B	I	T	E	■	R	O	C	■	I	R	E	S
E	A	T	S	■	O	W	E	■	R	A	S	H

Yesterday's answer 6-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nicole Kidman, 41; Cyndi Lauper, 55; John Goodman, 56; Lionel Richie, 59

Happy Birthday: Follow the practical and obvious path and you will succeed. A past experience will give you the wisdom to see a situation for what it is and move on without hesitation or loss. Your smart decisions will be recognized and others will want to align themselves with you. Your numbers are 2, 17, 23, 29, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be tempted to over-promise or over-extend your pocketbook. Love will present problems for you. You won't make good personal decisions but, when it comes to work, you will have a good eye on ways to advance. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get out and do things that are not usual for you and you can meet interesting new friends or a potential lover. You may be led to a new hobby or even a part time job. You will learn from someone with a totally different background. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The people you meet today will help you out or tip you off regarding a financial investment or deal. Put your house in order and clear up personal papers. You have to know where you stand in order to move ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Love will be on the rise and so much can be taken care of at a personal and emotional level if you discuss your needs. This is a great time to adjust your way of thinking, especially if it will help you raise your earning potential. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): By being proactive, you can easily follow through with dynamic actions that will make a difference to your future. You will get the support you need, so don't hesitate to ask the people you know for advice on being successful. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You don't have to give in to someone who is whining and complaining. Stand strong and call things as you see them. Opportunities for love are opening up. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You owe it to your own emotional well-being and mental health to do things that make you happy and are conducive to love and romance. Take a trip, visit a spa or just relax. Make this a me-day and enjoy the moment. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can ask questions but expect everyone you approach to give you candy-coated answers. Prepare to figure things out for yourself and make whatever alterations are necessary. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have to finish what you started before you move into a weekend party mood. If you leave things undone, someone may change his or her mind about using you in the future. A partnership may be in dire need of an overhaul. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your powerful persona will be felt by everyone with whom you do business. Unexpected funds will come to you but put them somewhere safe until you find out more about the origin. Avoid getting too close to someone you work with or for. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It will be hard to control your emotions regarding a secret matter. Don't divulge information but do open up discussions. A resolution will lead to a better life but it must be handled properly. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Get involved in something that has meaning to you and you will meet people who have similar interests and may be candidates for personal or business partners. A steady climb in a positive direction is heading your way. Don't let someone who wants to sabotage you stand in the way. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, strong-willed and have confidence in your abilities. You always land on your feet and can persuade others to help you.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					9		3	
	5	2						4
	3		4	6				
		7						5
		1				4		
2						7		
				8	3		9	
9						6	1	
	7		5					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	7	5	9	8	2	3	4
3	2	8	7	6	4	9	1	5
9	5	4	3	1	2	6	8	7
2	9	6	8	3	5	4	7	1
5	4	1	2	7	9	3	6	8
7	8	3	1	4	6	5	2	9
1	6	2	9	5	7	8	4	3
4	7	9	6	8	3	1	5	2
8	3	5	4	2	1	7	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAMMERHEAD SHARKS **Solution: 7 letters**

M	S	I	S	D	O	P	O	L	A	H	P	E	C	S
D	I	N	I	H	R	A	H	C	R	A	C	T	T	W
I	G	G	O	A	O	N	M	Y	N	A	E	C	O	O
S	N	R	R	I	W	R	R	P	O	G	A	E	S	L
C	A	E	A	A	T	A	E	S	U	R	E	S	N	L
O	L	T	D	D	T	C	H	L	T	L	E	N	R	A
V	S	S	T	I	I	I	E	R	I	A	L	I	U	H
E	E	M	L	A	W	E	O	J	N	N	N	A	T	S
R	N	O	W	T	C	P	N	N	O	A	E	E	E	P
I	S	O	E	A	I	K	E	T	S	R	E	S	O	T
E	O	T	T	C	T	T	R	A	S	T	P	R	T	A
S	R	H	A	M	N	E	L	L	A	T	E	R	A	L
N	Y	L	M	A	G	G	R	E	S	S	I	V	E	F
I	S	T	I	N	G	R	A	Y	S	I	Y	E	R	P
F	I	S	H	O	C	I	X	E	M	L	O	N	G	L

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Aggressive, Ampullae, Antennae, Attack, Carcharhinid, Cephalopods, Discoveries, Fins, Fish, Flat, Genus, Gradients, Great, Hawaii, Insect, Lateral, Long, Mano, Mate, Mexico, Migrations, Nasal, Ocean, Pores, Prey, Projection, Sensory, Shallow, Shorelines, Signal, Smooth, Solitary, Stingrays, Teeth, Tracts, Tropical, Turns, Water, Wide

Yesterday's Answer: Redeem

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call **toll-free**, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Apartment Room for Rent
2BR $230. 3BR $300. Koblerville.
Tel. # 288-0728-Yoon Won Suck

SERVICE

Do you need a Female CAREGIVER?
Please contact me at 483-7482

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Back to basics

FOR SALE

BUD'S BAR For Sale
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SCISAB
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The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

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3-LINER AD $25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45

5-LINER AD $35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55

Saipan Tribune
Hafa Adai!
SUNDAY
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
NMI cervical cancer rate higher than mainland. PAGE 3
Three suspects in poker robbery fall. PAGE 2
House overrides veto on CUC privatization criteria. PAGE 3
Liquidated Fund assets
CLASSIFIED ADS
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Call now at 235-2769 for more details.

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Banner 17: Celtics add to record championship haul

AP

In this photo released by CBS, Boston Celtics' Ray Allen, left, and Kevin Garnett, center, smile as host David Letterman hands them the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy on the set of "The Late Show With David Letterman," Wednesday, June 18, 2008 in New York.

BOSTON (AP)—When the Boston Celtics built a new practice facility, they surrounded the court with their 16 NBA championship banners and left a blank space for No. 17. The message was a bit too subtle for Doc Rivers.

The Celtics coach turned a spotlight on the empty spot on the wall at the beginning of this season so there would be no doubt about the team's goal.

"They can turn that thing off now," guard Ray Allen said early Wednesday morning, his left eye still red from the first-half face-raking and the post-game champagne spraying that accompanied Boston's title-clinching, 131-92 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Allen returned to the floor after getting poked in the eye and scored 26 points, including an NBA record-tying seven 3-pointers, Kevin Garnett had 26 points with 14 rebounds and finals MVP Paul Pierce scored 17 with 10 assists on Tuesday night as the Celtics smoked the Lakers like one of Red Auerbach's legendary victory cigars.

A year after winning just 24 games, then drawing bad luck in the draft lottery, the Celtics completed the most dramatic turnaround in NBA history with a Game 6 blowout that was equally impressive.

It was the 17th title for the league's most-decorated franchise, but it was the first for Pierce, Garnett and Allen; for Rivers, after nine full seasons as a coach and 13 as a player; and for the owners who named their group Banner 17 when they took over in 2002 and now have to consider whether they set their sights too low.

"If I changed it I would change it to Banner 20 to set the right tone," owner Wyc Grousbeck said in an e-mail on Wednesday. "But Red always said the first one was his favorite, and in honor of our first one we are going to stay with Banner 17."

Allen and Garnett did what Allen joked is sports champions' present-day version of "We're going to Disneyland." They appeared Wednesday on the "Late Show with David Letterman," where they reveled in their new title.

"How you feeling, champ?" Allen asked Garnett during their interview with Letterman.

"I feel good," Garnett replied. "How you feeling, champ?"

Said Allen, "Oh, I'm doing good."

It was also the first title for Celtics general manager Danny Ainge also since hanging up his sneakers and putting on a suit.

"I just feel happy for the players," said Ainge, who won twice as a Celtics player in the 1980s. "They put so much time and hard work into it."

So did Ainge.

His was an oddly timed hire, in the middle of the 2003 playoffs, and he immediately concluded that the team competing for a spot in the Eastern Conference finals wasn't good enough to go much further. He began dismantling the roster, acquiring draft picks, prospects and expiring contracts without apparent regard to how they would fit together.

The Celtics did what they could last season to improve their chances in the draft lottery, but they landed the worst-case fifth pick in a two-star draft. Unable to convince Garnett to come to a struggling team, Ainge traded the No. 5 pick for Allen.

Suddenly, the Celtics' prospects look a whole lot better to Garnett.

After signing him to a contract extension that would keep him in Boston through 2012—there was no deal without the extension—Ainge made an unprecedented 7-for-1 trade with Minnesota GM Kevin McHale to complete the new Big Three that won it all in its first try.

"It's a team that's easy to fall in love with," Ainge said after the celebration. "They have a lot of guys who are real caring people, that care for one another genuinely. They play together and play hard and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Ainge and Rivers have all five starters signed for two more seasons, and all but Allen are in the fold for 2010-11. Sixth man James Posey is the key free agent, though midseason acquisitions P.J. Brown and Sam Cassell are also unsigned for next year.

The bigger question is whether the Big Three, so hungry after a decade of watching other teams celebrate, can come back and do it again.

The original Big Three of Larry Bird, Robert Parish and McHale—the same McHale who handed Garnett to his former —won three times in the 1980s, reaching the finals four years in a row from 1984-87, but never repeated.

"I know what it means to win a championship as a Celtic, and the place championships hold in the history of the franchise," Bird, now an executive with the Indiana Pacers, said Wednesday. "I'm also pleased for Danny Ainge, Doc Rivers and his staff, knowing where they were last year and then making the decisions to put them in position to win the team's 17th title."

Federer, Ivanovic take No. 1 seeds for Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Five-time champion Roger Federer and top-ranked Ana Ivanovic were seeded No. 1 for Wimbledon on Wednesday. There were no big surprises when the All England Club announced the seedings for the grass-court Grand Slam, which begins Monday.

Federer is aiming for his sixth straight Wimbledon title and 13th Grand Slam championship. Ivanovic looks at add to her French Open title.

Wimbledon stuck closely to the world rankings, particularly among the women, in determining the seeding for the two-week tournament. The top seven spots in the men's list followed the rankings.

Federer is followed by No. 2 Rafael Nadal, runner-up at Wimbledon the past two years, and No. 3 Novak Djokovic, the Australian Open champion. Next is No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko, No. 5 David Ferrer, No. 6 and two-time finalist Andy Roddick and No. 7 David Nalbandian.

Richard Gasquet and James Blake swap spots, with the Frenchman at No. 8 ahead of the American at No. 9. The biggest change involves Marcos Baghdatis, who is seeded at No. 10 - 15 spots above his world ranking. The Cypriot player reached the semifinals in 2006 and the quarters last year.

Among the women, Wimbledon kept to the rankings all the way through the first 20 seeded players.

The list is headed by Ivanovic, who won the French Open for her first Grand Slam title and took over as No. 1.

She is followed by Jelena Jankovic at No. 2, former champion Maria Sharapova at No. 3, Svetlana Kuznetsova at No. 4, Elena Dementieva at No. 5, two-time winner Serena Williams at No. 6 and defending champion and four-time winner Venus Williams at No. 7.

The draw for the tournament will be held Friday.

Andrew Bynum's return should make Lakers contender again

LOS ANGELES (AP—Although the Lakers' season ended with a thud, they have Andrew Bynum coming back and youth and Kobe Bryant on their side, so they can say "Wait 'til next year" and be taken seriously.

Since Shaquille O'Neal left town with three championship rings following the 2003-2004 season, Los Angeles has been vulnerable inside on both ends of the floor. Boston's big men, exemplified by Kevin Garnett in Game 6, were more than the Lakers could handle.

As the Celtics were romping to a 131-92 victory in their clinching Game 6 Tuesday night, a Boston fan held a sign that read, "Kobe, You Can't Do Jack Without Shaq."

Bryant might be able to do that and more with 7-foot, 285-pound Bynum at center and 7-0 Pau Gasol at forward.

Acquiring Gasol in February turned the Lakers' season around, helping them win the tough Western Conference and come within two games of taking the league title. But Gasol, a 250-pounder, didn't have the bulk needed to match up against heftier players.

"They overran us. Garnett knocked Pau down in the lane and scored an easy basket in the first four or five possessions and set kind of a tone," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

Bryant's options were limited because he couldn't drive to the hoop consistently. The Celtics could.

Asked what Bynum will bring to the team, Bryant said, "Rebounding and shot-blocker in the middle. He solves a couple of those."

Sidelined since Jan. 13 by a knee injury and ensuing surgery, Bynum was averaging 13.1 points, 10.2 rebounds, 2.06 blocks and was shooting a league-high 63.6 percent from the floor when he went up for a rebound and came down on teammate Lamar Odom's foot.

The freak injury occurred as Bynum, still a pro basketball baby at 20, seemed to be rapidly coming of age. He is expected to be ready to go by the start of next season.

Watching the finals from the sidelines was painful for him.

"Definitely want to be able to go out there and play, help your teammates out," he said after the Lakers lost the opening game. "Not being able to do that kind of stinks, especially when you lose by a little bit like we did last time. You lose by rebounds, blocked shots, turnovers; people walking down getting layups and that's a big part of my job as a center."

Odom hopes Bynum's return will make a big difference.

"Obviously, we really don't know because we haven't all played together, but with Gasol and Bynum down there with the players that we have, I'm pretty sure it will," Odom said.

Sasha Vujacic is guaranteeing that the Lakers will win it all next season.

"Especially with Andrew and the same group, we won't be short two games like we were this year. I can guarantee you that," Vujacic said. "We are going to work really hard. We want to win it. We lost our first finals and I think we have a lot more to go."

Looking ahead, although Bryant didn't have a stellar series in the finals, he's the regular-season MVP and still arguably the best in the game. He, Gasol and Bynum conceivably could be the next "Big Three."

And they'll be around for a while.

Bryant turns 30 on Aug. 23 and Gasol's 28th birthday is next month. Derek Fisher, 33, was the only Los Angeles regular over 30 in the series against the Celtics. Boston's Garnett and Ray Allen will be 33 at finals time next year, and Paul Pierce will be 31.

Since the Lakers' season began in turmoil, with Bryant calling the team's front office "a mess" and asking to be traded, their turnaround and trip to the finals was unexpected.

Jackson called the Lakers' season a "remarkable" one.

"We suffered injuries and survived a season and rebuilt our team and came back and had a great playoff run until the Celtics were able to extinguish that hope," he said.

"But we'll look back on this favorably. We were surprised we were here, and we're glad that we had an opportunity. But whenever you get this opportunity, you don't want to let it slip away, and we did."

While Jackson said the Lakers need to acquire some players if they are going to return to the finals, Bryant—who essentially had demanded last summer that he get some help—said no shakeup is necessary.

"No, we're fine. I think what we have to do is continue to work. That's really the key, understanding that this isn't guaranteed to anybody. There are people who have gotten here before and never gotten back, so it's important for us to understand that, to work hard and come back next year ready to go," Bryant said.

Tiger Woods to have season-ending knee surgery

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

AP
Tiger Woods holds onto his knee as he comes out of a bunker on the fourth hole during the third round of the US Open championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, Tuesday June 14, 2008.

Tiger Woods walked tenderly out of Torrey Pines with a U.S. Open trophy he was destined to win on a left leg worse than anyone imagined. A group of children called out to him and Woods looked over and waved. It turned out to be a most symbolic gesture. So long, Tiger. See you next year.

Woods revealed Wednesday he has been playing for at least 10 months with a torn ligament in his left knee, and that he suffered a double stress fracture in his left leg two weeks before the U.S. Open. He said he will have season-ending surgery, knocking him out of the final two majors and the Ryder Cup.

"Now, it is clear that the right thing to do is to listen to my doctors, follow through with this surgery and focus my attention on rehabilitating my knee," Woods said on his Web site.

He sure wasn't listening to doctors by playing the U.S. Open, a victory that now looks even more impressive.

Out of competition for two months because of April 15 surgery to clean out cartilage in his left knee, he suffered a double stress fracture in his left tibia two weeks before the U.S. Open.

Hank Haney, his swing coach, was with him in Florida when doctors told Woods the preferred treatment was three weeks on crutches, followed by three weeks of rest.

According to Haney, Woods looked at the doctor and said: "I'm playing the U.S. Open, and I'm going to win."

"And then he started putting on his shoes," Haney recalled. "He looked at me and said, 'Come on, Hank. We'll just putt today.' Every night, I kept thinking there was no chance he's going to play. He had to stop in his tracks for 30 seconds walking from the dining room table to the refrigerator.

"He was not going to miss the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. There just wasn't any discussion."

And it was a U.S. Open that will be talked about for years.

Despite a torn anterior cruciate ligament and a double stress fracture, Woods managed to win a major that required five days of flinching, grimacing and a long list of spectacular shots that have defined his career.

He went 91 holes on a leg that got worse with each day, finally defeating Rocco Mediate on the 19th hole of a playoff.

"When I talk about golf, he doesn't count," Mediate said Monday after the playoff. "He's not normal."

Woods, 32, did not say when he would have surgery, but he canceled a clinic that was scheduled for Tuesday at Comerica Park in Detroit. Haney said the typical recovery is six to eight months. This will be Woods' third surgery in five years on his left knee.

"There will be debate whether he rushed back for the U.S. Open," said Mark Steinberg, his agent at IMG. "But I don't think there will be any debate that he rushes back from his next surgery. He won't need to. Augusta is in April. And if things go according to plan, he'll be able to play an event or two or three."

Woods first went to Haney toward the end of 2002 to overhaul a violent swing that was putting enormous pressure on his left knee. Haney suspects the pain has been increasing, and Woods stopped hitting balls after his rounds at last year's British Open.

"He's been playing way less than 100 percent for a long, long, time," Haney said. "It has limited him a lot in practice. He's going to come back better than he's ever been."

Woods was already plenty good, with 65 victories that rank third all-time on the PGA Tour, and 14 professional majors that are second only to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus. This is the 500th week Woods has been ranked No. 1 in the world.

Even in his abbreviated 2008 season, he won five of seven tournaments worldwide. Dating to the discovery of the torn ACL, Woods won nine of 12 tournaments, including two majors, and never finished lower than fifth.

"While I am obviously disappointed to have to miss the remainder of the season, I have to do the right thing for my long-term health and look forward to returning to competitive golf when my doctors agree that my knee is sufficiently healthy," Woods said. "My doctors assure me with the proper rehabilitation and training, the knee will be strong and there will be no long-term effects."

Woods will miss a major for the first time in his career—the British Open next month at Royal Birkdale and the PGA Championship, where Woods is the two-time defending champion, in August at Oakland Hills in Michigan.

"Tiger is an enormous attraction, there's no denying that," Royal & Ancient chief executive Peter Dawson said. "But the Open Championship has had many exciting finishes which Tiger has not been part of, and I'm sure there will be more. It's very sad. We're very sorry that he's succumbed to the injury and he won't be competing in the Open.

"We hope he has the speediest recovery."

Woods also will miss the Ryder Cup in September, meaning the ninth player in the U.S. standings will qualify for the team. Coincidentally, Woods had mathematically clinched a spot on the team by winning the U.S. Open.

"We sent him flowers for winning the U.S. Open. Now I wish I had put in a note of condolences," U.S. captain Paul Azinger quipped. "But this is not about Tiger and the Ryder Cup. It's about Tiger getting better and his march to history."

The majors won't miss Woods nearly as much as the PGA Tour—and the networks that televise it—especially in the second year of the FedEx Cup, which Woods won in a landslide last year.

He still might be leading the points race in August leading to the playoffs. Even with Woods no longer playing the rest of the year, he will keep his spot in the playoff events for which he is eligible.

"Tiger is our tour," Kenny Perry said from the Travelers Championship, which starts Thursday at TPC River Highlands in Connecticut. "When you lose your star player, it definitely hurts."

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said his concern was for Woods' health and well being.

"We wish him the best toward a speedy recovery," he said.

Woods is private about his health and personal life, never more so than at the just-completed U.S. Open. He didn't say anything about the torn ACL or the stress fractures, and wouldn't say how he was treating it, only that it was more sore as the week went on.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was when the injury first happened.

Woods said he tore the ACL while jogging at home after the British Open last July. He played on, going on a streak that included seven consecutive victories, including the Dubai Desert Classic on the European tour and his Target World Challenge, an unofficial event.

He did not play overseas late last year for the first time since 2003, hopeful that rest could allow him to play more this year. But the pain intensified through the Masters, where he finished second, and Woods said the cartilage damage developed from the ACL injury.

He bypassed surgery on the torn ligament April 15, hopeful that by cleaning out the cartilage he could make it through the year. What he didn't anticipate were the stress fractures as he tried to get ready for the Memorial.

"The stress fractures that were discovered just prior to the tournament unfortunately prevented me from participating and had a huge impact on the timing for my return," Woods said. "I was determined, though, to do everything and anything in my power to play in the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, which is a course that is close to where I grew up and holds many special memories for me."

Woods won for the eighth time at the public golf course in San Diego—a U.S. Open, a record six times at the Buick Invitational, and a Junior World Championship as a teenager.

He called his U.S. Open victory "probably the best ever."

On Wednesday, he explained why.

Raiders expect Walker to be ready for camp

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders expect new receiver Javon Walker to be ready for training camp when he recovers from injuries incurred during a robbery in Las Vegas last weekend.

Raiders coach Lane Kiffin finally spoke to Walker by phone on Wednesday morning, more than two days after Walker was discovered unconscious and beaten on a back street near the Las Vegas Strip following a night of partying. Walker was released from a hospital after treatment for a concussion and facial injuries.

"The info that I have is he's going to be fine," Kiffin said. "Training camp won't be an issue. ... But until our guys look at him, I don't want to say (the extent of Walker's injuries)."

Kiffin said Walker was scheduled to fly to Oakland on Wednesday evening in time to attend the final session of the Raiders' organized team activities on Thursday, though he obviously won't suit up with quarterback JaMarcus Russell and his new teammates. Oakland opens training camp July 25 in Napa.

"We are aware that Javon Walker was the victim of a robbery," Raiders spokesman Mike Taylor said in a statement. "We have been told that he will make a full recovery in the near future and resume his preparation for the 2008 NFL season."

A Las Vegas police spokesman said a large amount of cash and expensive jewelry were taken from Walker, who was photographed earlier in the fateful evening spraying a nightclub crowd with champagne. His agent, Kennard McGuire, said Walker was "recovering in a private environment" on Wednesday.

Walker signed a six-year, $55 million deal with the Raiders after the Denver Broncos released him in February. The 29-year-old former Packers star has participated in some offseason work with Russell, though Kiffin said two weeks ago that Walker was "a little heavy" for workouts.

Russell has been a high-profile star since high school, and the former No. 1 draft pick is fully aware of the dangers inherent in such a high-profile profession.

"There's people out there," Russell said. "Just be careful and watch your surroundings. Watch out, or always carry somebody with you when you go out. Just watch yourself and know that you're representing a whole bunch of people when you're out there."

Details of Walker's party night still were sketchy, and the Raiders weren't expected to make Walker available to the media on the final day of workouts, with Thursday scheduled to be closed to reporters.

But Walker knows the dangers of nighttime partying better than most athletes.

On Jan. 1, 2007, a still-unidentified gunman targeted a car carrying Walker and several Broncos teammates in a drive-by shooting outside a downtown Denver nightclub. Darrent Williams, a defensive back, died in Walker's arms in their rented limousine after an apparent altercation between a handful of athletes and other partygoers.

Nobody has been arrested or charged in Williams' slaying. Walker and other witnesses said Broncos teammate Brandon Marshall had sprayed that crowd with champagne, which might have sparked the confrontation that led to the shooting.

"All we can do is educate (players) the best that we can," Kiffin said. "We can't babysit them. ... Not many good things happen after midnight, and this is another example of that, another reminder of how dangerous it is out there."

Manuel gets 1st win as Mets manager

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Jerry Manuel got his first win managing the Mets when New York rallied to tie it in the ninth inning and Damion Easley homered in the 10th to beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-4 on Wednesday.

Manuel, who replaced the fired Willie Randolph, lost his debut with the Mets on Tuesday night.

Down to their last out, the Mets made it 4-all in the ninth on David Wright's RBI single off All-Star closer Francisco Rodriguez.

Easley connected with two outs off Justin Speier (0-4) for his second homer of the season.

Red Sox 7, Phillies 4

At Philadelphia, J.D. Drew tied a career-high with four hits and fell a triple short of the cycle as Boston beat Philadelphia in interleague play.

Drew hit a three-run homer in the first inning, doubled in the third, had an RBI single in the fourth and singled in the sixth before tapping out in the eighth. He finished 4-for-5 with four RBIs.

Justin Masterson (4-1) allowed two runs and four hits in five innings, the shortest of his six career starts.

Tigers 7, Giants 2

At San Francisco, Placido Polanco had four hits, drove in two runs and scored three as Detroit knocked struggling San Francisco starter Barry Zito out after two innings.

Armando Galarraga (7-2) didn't allow an earned run in six innings and struck out five.

Marcus Thames had his stretch of consecutive games with a home run end at five, which tied a team record. Still, his last eight hits have been homers.

Orioles 2, Astros 1, 10 innings

At Baltimore, Kevin Millar singled in the game-winning run in the 10th inning, and Baltimore handed Houston its seventh straight loss.

It was the fourth straight one-run game for the Orioles, three of them victories. Baltimore is 17-10 in one-run games compared to 13-31 last year.

Lance Berkman hit his 20th home run and had two of Houston's five hits.

Rays 5, Cubs 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Andy Sonnanstine allowed three runs in five-plus innings for Tampa Bay.

B.J. Upton, Eric Hinske, Evan Longoria and Willy Aybar drove in runs off Carlos Zambrano (8-3) during Tampa Bay's four-run third inning, helping the Rays clinch their ninth consecutive series at home.

White Sox 8, Pirates 2

At Chicago, backup catcher Toby Hall hit his first home run in two years and Carlos Quentin slugged his 17th this season for Chicago.

Mark Buehrle (4-6) gave up two runs and four hits with two walks in eight innings. He struck out three and threw only 96 pitches. He lost a no-hit bid in the sixth when Jose Bautista homered on the first pitch.

Royals 3, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, David DeJesus and Alex Gordon hit solo home runs in the eighth inning to rally Brian Bannister and Kansas City.

Last in the AL Central, the Royals improved to 6-2 in interleague play and will try for a three-game sweep of their cross-state rivals on Thursday. Kansas City had been 0-37 this season when trailing after seven innings.

Braden Looper held the Royals scoreless on two hits until John Buck had an RBI single in the seventh. Reliever Kyle McClellan (0-2) had allowed only two home runs in 35 2-3 innings when he took over in the eighth with a 2-1 lead. DeJesus hit his eighth homer with one out. Gordon connected off the rookie right-hander with two outs for his eighth home run.

Twins 11, Nationals 2

At Minneapolis, Kevin Slowey (4-6) allowed one earned run and seven hits over six-plus innings and Justin Morneau had three RBIs for Minnesota.

Carlos Gomez of the Twins bunted for two of his three singles, scored two runs and drove in an insurance run in the seventh.

Braves 5, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, Omar Infante hit a tiebreaking single and Atlanta scored three times in the ninth inning.

Jeff Francoeur led off the inning with a grounder that Rangers closer C.J. Wilson (0-2) threw wildly to first for a two-base error. One out later, Infante singled to right to drive in Francoeur, and Gregor Blanco followed with a run-scoring triple to right-center. Kelly Johnson added his second RBI of the game with a run-scoring groundout to make it 5-2.

Chipper Jones hit his 16th homer and went 2-for-5 to keep his major league-leading average at .400.

Brewers 5, Blue Jays 4

At Milwaukee, Mike Cameron and Russell Branyan homered for Milwaukee, which won its third straight.

Relievers Carlos Villanueva, Brian Shouse, Guillermo Mota and Salomon Torres, who picked up his ninth save by getting four outs, combined to give up two runs and six hits after starter Ben Sheets (8-1) left with a 4-2 lead after giving up four hits in six innings.

Yankees 8, Padres 5

At New York, Alex Rodriguez homered for the fourth straight game and New York set a season high with its sixth consecutive victory.

Darrell Rasner (4-4) walked five in five innings, but yielded only two runs and three hits to snap his four-start losing streak.

New York beat NL Cy Young Award winner Jake Peavy (5-4), who gave up four runs _ three earned—and six hits in four innings.

Rockies 4, Indians 2

At Denver, Jeff Baker homered and scored three runs and Jeff Francis (3-6) allowed one run over six innings for Colorado.

Omar Quintanilla went 2-for-3 and had two RBIs for the Rockies.

Cleveland's Aaron Laffey (4-4) lost for the first time since May 22 and for just the second time since April 28.

Diamondbacks 11, Athletics 1

At Phoenix, Dan Haren allowed one run and drove in three for Arizona against his old team.

Haren (7-4) limited the A's to four hits in seven innings, walking one and striking out eight. He hit a three-run double as the Diamondbacks paid back the A's for a 15-1 drubbing in the series opener.

Chris Young and Stephen Drew homered for the Diamondbacks, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Drew, Hudson and Tracy each had three hits for Arizona, which matched a season high with 15.

Marlins 8, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Dan Uggla and Mike Jacobs hit two-run homers for Florida, the top home run hitting team in the majors.

The Marlins took two of three in the interleague matchup, winning their first road series since a sweep of the Washington Nationals on May 9-11.

Jacobs hit his 17th homer in the third off Seattle starter R.A. Dickey. Uggla followed in the sixth with his 21st that made it 7-2. The Marlins have 106 homers, three ahead of NL East rival Philadelphia.

Report: Fielder owes more than $400,000 in taxes

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Brewers slugger Prince Fielder owes more than $400,000 in unpaid taxes, according to a published report.

Fielder declined comment on the report through a team spokesman before Wednesday night's game against Toronto. An IRS spokesman told The Associated Press that Fielder could have made payments or even paid it off, but that it might not be recorded yet.

The Detroit News' Tax Watchdog blog published Tuesday a copy of the IRS' Notice of Federal Tax Lien filed against Fielder on Oct. 6, 2005. It was addressed to a residence in his name in Melbourne, Fla., and noted he owed a total of $409,149.14 assessed on Sept. 13, 2004, and Feb. 7, 2005.

"That's nobody's business but his," Brewers manager Ned Yost said. "That has nothing to do with baseball."

General manager Doug Melvin declined comment. A message left with Fielder's agent, Scott Boras, wasn't immediately returned.

Roscow-Sharry, Kennedy-LeBlanc top Seaside Grill

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The tandems of Jazz Roscow and Larry Sharry and Heather Kennedy and Nicole LeBlanc topped their respective divisions in last weekend's 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend played at the Pacific Islands Club's sand courts.

Roscow and Sharry won the men's division Sunday after beating Bruce Berline and Chris Nelson in the finals, 15-8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The men and women players of the 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend held last June 14 and 15 pose for a photo after the tournament at Pacific Islands Club.

The duo, who got a bye in the first round, was a bit shaky in their semifinal game match against Tyce Mister and Dale Roberts before prevailing in a score of, 15-12.

Berline and Nelson, for their part, advanced to the finals after overcoming Marino Pungilug and Keoni Ichihara, 15-13. The tandem earlier dismissed the brother-brother pair of Greg and Jeff Elliott, 15-10, in the first round.

Mister and Robert advanced to the second round after beating Nick Swaim and Rob Jordan, 15-10.

In the women's division, Kennedy and LeBlanc won the championship after beating Laurie Peterka and Linda Anastacio in the finals.

Kennedy and LeBlanc went to the championship round after beating Angie Mister and Nikki Gabaldi. Peterka and Anastacio, meanwhile, earned the finals berth after overwhelming Amber Roberts and Ann Jordan in their own semis match.

First round matches saw Mister and Gabaldi take out Amanda Puleo and Lindsey Sosovec and Roberts and Jordan eliminate Felicia McFarland and Kegn Hall.

The Roscow-Sharry and Kennedy-LeBlanc teams received cash prizes that were determined by the number of entries in the tournament.

Aside from exciting volleyball action, players that signed up were also given complimentary drinks courtesy of Pacific Trading Co., as well as waterpark passes for each of the two days of the tournament.

The 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend was sponsored by PIC, PTC, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Associaiton, Gatorade, Pepsi, and Miller Lite.

For more information about the event, please contact Sergei or John by telephone at 235-6231 extensions 5147 and 5148, e-mail sportsmanager@picsaipan.com, or stop by the SEA Office at Pacific Islands Club.

2008 Mazda 3, $5K up for grabs in San Roque golf

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A spanking new 2008 Mazda 3 and $5,000 cash are among the hole-in-one prizes being dangled in the 14th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament set for June 28 at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

The tournament, which is a fundraiser for the church on the northern part of Saipan, will have its five customary flights—Championships, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors.

But aside from the in-kind prizes the winners of the aforementioned flights will get, a 2008 Mazda 3 and $5,000 cash prize from Marianas Insurance awaits each golfer who makes a hole-in-one at a designated Par 3 hole.

Other prizes include seafood and steak dinners at one of Saipan's great steakhouses, round-trip airline tickets, and many other gift items.

Tee time is set at 12pm with registration set from 10am to 11:30am. Registration is ongoing and golfers are encouraged to register early in order to reserve a spot in the tournament.

The San Roque parish council wishes to invite golfers and non-golfers to join them. The council also wishes to thank all those who have given their time and who have donated to make this year's tournament one of the best golf fundraising events for San Roque.

For more information, you may contact Tony Cabrera at 322-0417, Felix Sasamoto at 322-1889, Fr. Bong Lopez at 322-2404, or Ed Manibusan at 235-6520.

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol won the 13th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament held in May 27, 2007, at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

Wabol took the top plumb despite firing a two-over par 74 following a 34 in the front and a 40 in the back performance.

Other winners last year were Rick Kautz of A Flight, Fr. Manny Corcuera of B Flight James N. Babauta of C Flight, Kim Jeong Mi of Ladies Flight, and Joe Sablan of Seniors Flight.

SEVEN

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Guam, 6-2, 6-1, in a match between pool topnotchers.

Arriola, who topped Pool A, advanced to the final round after getting the better of teammate Jones, 6-0, 6-2. Jones later booked a trip to Fiji after taking third place following a 6-0, 6-4 win over Alyssa Hawkins of Federated States of Micronesia.

Theecel Minor wound up fifth following wins over Marica Otto of FSM (6-1, 6-0) and Theresa Rice of Guam (6-0, 6-0).

Miller, for his part, took the top spot in the boys' 13-and-under after nipping Pool A winner teammate Rafael Jones in the finals, 7-6, 3-6, 6-2.

Miller, who topped Pool D with a 3-0 record in the eliminations, got going with a 6-2, 6-1 win over compatriot Dan Camacho. He then took out Pool C topnotcher and teammate Lucas Nutting in the second round, 6-2, 6-3, before winning the finale against Jones.

He will be joined in Fiji by Jones and Pool B winner Jake Lee, who took third place following a 6-2, 6-1 win over Nutting.

Minor, for her part, won the girls' 13-and-under after handily beating Shawn Adams of FSM in the finals, 6-1, 6-2.

Amy Arenovski, meanwhile, can finish no worse than sixth after beating Ayana Rengiil of Palau, 6-1, 6-4. The result of Arenovski's match against Amanda Hawkins of FSM was still not available as of press time.

Jean Bracken, meanwhile, wound up in 11th place after beating FSM's Danielle Adams, 6-2, 6-3. It was her first win in her first off-island tournament. Earlier she lost to Camdyn Nadler of Guam, 1-6, 4-6.

Other players making it the North Pacific Team are Michael Tan (Guam) in the boys' 18, Alea Dugan (Guam) in the girls' 18, and Shawn Adams (FSM) and Andrea Lai (Guam) in the girls' 13.

URARII

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Pacific Games and Oceania competition) and Wala Gime.

The women's 400m hurdles appears to be Henry's for the taking. She won the Pacific Games 400m hurdles while she was battling a severe bout of malaria. Since then, she has improved greatly and now has a seed time of 61.47.

Just over two seconds slower is McCann with a time of 63.51. The other competitor is Kaitinano Mwemweata of Kiribati, who will be aiming to break her national record in the meet.

In the women's Under-18 100m hurdles, two New Zealand athletes should have a battle royale for local bragging rights.

However, Olivia Blundell (14.98) holds a narrow edge over Kelsey Berryman (15.18). The field is rounded out by Vasi Feke of Tonga who performed so well in the recent Tongan National Championships with a time of 15.29 seconds.

The women's 400m hurdles only has three entries. The Australian competitor has a seed time of 72.56 seconds. New Zealand's Kelsey Barryman has no seed time but is an experienced 100m hurdler. Feke can hurdle but did not run it in their nationals.

In the Under-18 men's 110m hurdles, Aussie Daniel Mclean (14.97) will go up against against New Zealand's Michael Cochrane (15.03). Tonga's Lars Fa'apoi (16.06) looks good for third, but his compatriot Andy Lui could be a surprise.

Cochrane looks to be a lock in the Under-18 men's 400m hurdles based on his 110m hurdles form with Fa'apoi his biggest challenger.

13 MATCHES

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colas in the octagon cage ring.

It will be followed shortly by the semi main event that will pit Slade "The Rage" Adelbai against Neil "Lion Heart" Taisacan.

The other matches for Trench Warz VIII-Kontra are: Guam's Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu vs. Arnold "Killer B" Balbin; Spike 22 Guam's Rudy "The Uzi" San Nicolas vs. Zalaka's Lyle DL Guerrero; Team Peskadot's Jay "Taby" Muna vs. Spike 22 Guam's Jun "Shakaraba" San Nicolas; Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan vs. Team Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley; Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo vs. Kontra's Robert "The Pitbull" Palacios; and Rick "Too Slick" San Nicolas vs. Ton "Debbs" Sablan.

San Nicolas is looking for his first win in nine matches, while Sablan is dubbed the "Chamorro Butdoza" and weighs in at 340 lbs.

Young gun Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, meanwhile, will try to settle the score with archrival Brandon Camacho of Team Predator when they lock horns in the ninth match.

The last four matches, meanwhile, will feature grappling gold medalist Chris "No Luv" Layug taking on stand-up gladiator Derek Chen of Team Zalaka, "Kill" Bill Saures against Darryl "The Derailer" Salas, Purebred Saipan and Grappling Unlimited Hawaii's Jose "No Way" Mafnas against "Brutal" Bryson Sablan, and Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios squaring off against Zalaka's Andrew Sablan.

Trench Tech president and Trench Warz promoter Cuki Alvarez said also in attenance is the Marianas' and Guam's MMA sensation and top 140-pounder Justin "The Shocker" Cruz.

Aside from the 13 slam-bang MMA matches, Alvarez also promised that Trench Warz VIII-Kontra will have a lot of door prizes and giveaways for lucky patrons.

Tickets are available at Boarderline, 67zero Rocksteady Shop, Trench Tech Gym, and Hannam Market. General seating is $20 with VIP seating at $40.

Alvarez said Trench Warz VIII-Kontra fighters will have an official weigh-in and rules meeting today at Hard Rock Café Saipan.

TAHITI

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The 2008 Oceania Grand Prix kicks off tomorrow with 16 events lined up at the Oleai Sports Complex, starting with women's high jump, women's shot put, and men's javelin throw at 5pm.

The women's 1500 meter run is set at 5:30pm with the men's 1500m run, men's high jump, and women's triple jump coming up 15 minutes later.

The women's javelin throw, men's shot put, and women's 400m hurdles are also scheduled at 6pm, followed by the men's 400m hurdles at 6:15.

Set at 6:30pm are the women's 5000m run, the men's 5000m run, and the men's triple jump, while the women's 100m sprint and the men's century dash commence at 7pm and 7:15pm, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	29	.613	_
Tampa Bay	42	29	.592	2
New York	39	33	.542	5 1/2
Baltimore	36	34	.514	7 1/2
Toronto	35	38	.479	10

Central Division

Chicago	40	31	.563	_
Minnesota	36	36	.500	4 1/2
Detroit	34	38	.472	6 1/2
Cleveland	33	39	.458	7 1/2
Kansas City	30	42	.417	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	43	30	.589	_
Oakland	39	32	.549	3
Texas	36	37	.493	7
Seattle	25	47	.347	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	42	32	.568	_
Florida	39	33	.542	2
Atlanta	36	37	.493	5 1/2
New York	35	36	.493	5 1/2
Washington	29	44	.397	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	45	27	.625	_
St. Louis	42	31	.575	3 1/2
Milwaukee	38	33	.535	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	34	38	.472	11
Houston	33	39	.458	12
Cincinnati	33	40	.452	12 1/2

West Division

Arizona	38	34	.528	_
Los Angeles	33	38	.465	4 1/2
San Diego	31	42	.425	7 1/2
San Francisco	31	42	.425	7 1/2
Colorado	30	42	.417	8

Yesterday's Games

Boston 7, Philadelphia 4
Detroit 7, San Francisco 2
N.Y. Yankees 8, San Diego 5
Baltimore 2, Houston 1, 10 innings
Tampa Bay 5, Chicago Cubs 4
L.A. Dodgers 6, Cincinnati 1
Milwaukee 5, Toronto 4
Atlanta 5, Texas 2
Minnesota 11, Washington 2
Chicago White Sox 8, Pittsburgh 2
Kansas City 3, St. Louis 2
Colorado 4, Cleveland 2
Arizona 11, Oakland 1
N.Y. Mets 5, L.A. Angels 4, 10 innings
Florida 8, Seattle 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Grand Prix Day 1 Schedule (June 21)

5pm	Women's High Jump
5pm	Women's Shot Put
5pm	Men's Javelin Throw
5:30pm	Women's 1500 Meter Run
5:45pm	Men's 1500 Meter Run
5:45pm	Men's High Jump
5:45pm	Women's Triple Jump
6pm	Women's Javelin Throw
6pm	Men's Shot Put
6pm	Women's 400 Meter Hurdles
6:15pm	Men's 400 Meter Hurdles
6:30pm	Women's 5000 Meter Run
6:30pm	Men's 5000 Meter Run
6:30pm	Men's Triple Jump
7pm	Women's 100 Meter Sprint
7:1pm	Men's 100 Meter Sprint

9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon attracted a total of 36 participants from Japan, Saipan, and Tinian. Photo above shows participants gather in the shore of Taga Beach moments before the start of the race.

Triathletes are off to the races in the swim part of 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon.

Tyce Mister came in fourth after tearing the tape in 2:50:49.

Local volunteers pose for a souvenir photo after the race.

Right, the men's overall winners of the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon, from left, third place Ken Halliday, first place Eli Torgeson, and second place Hideya Miyazuka.

Far right, the women's overall winners of the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon, from left, runner-up Mineo Yoko, winner Moriya Eiko, and Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa, who finished third.

Eli Torgeson, seen here in a file photo, topped the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon in a time of 2:27:19.

Tomoko Kamada of Japan gets her number written on her arm by a local volunteer.

Japan's Hiromi Kozono catches his breath after coming in 16th best with a time of 3:17:28.

Hideya Miyazuka starts the run phase of the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon. He finished second in 2:30:05.

Roscow-Sharry, Kennedy-LeBlanc top Seaside Grill

The tandems of Jazz Roscow and Larry Sharry and Heather Kennedy and Nicole LeBlanc topped their respective divisions in last weekend's 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend played at the Pacific Islands Club's sand courts.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Banner 17: Celtics add to record championship haul

When the Boston Celtics built a new practice facility, they surrounded the court with their 16 NBA championship banners and left a blank space for No. 17. The message was a bit too subtle for Doc Rivers.

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Seven NMI netters going to Fiji

Arriola

Jones

Minor

Miller

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Seven CNMI junior netters have assured themselves slots in the North Pacific Team to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after finishing in the Top 3 of their respective divisions in the North Pacific Qualifier which singles competition concluded yesterday in Guam.

James Camacho, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, Jake Lee, and Thea Minor will join automatic qualifier Ji Hoon Heo to Lautoka, Fiji next month for the competition at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Tennis Centre.

Camacho will join Heo in the boys' 18-and-under division despite losing to Guam's Michael Tan in the finals, 0-6, 3-6, yesterday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning, Guam.

Camacho earlier advanced to the championship round following a 7-6, 6-4 upset win over Tinian's Benjie Decena, who was unbeaten in Pool B. The result of Decena's third place match against Guam's William Koo was still not available as of press time.

Russell Buenaventura and Woo Suk Chang, the other CNMI players in the age group, came in fifth and sixth, respectively. Buenaventura beat Stanley Rice of Guam (6-1, 6-1) and Chang (1-6, 6-2, 6-4), while Chang took out Alex Kalau of FSM (6-2, 6-1).

In the girls' 18-and-under, Arriola took the championship after beating Alea Dugan of

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Tahiti, New Caledonia are first teams to arrive

By MARK RABAGO
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Team Tahiti and two members of New Caledonia's squad were the first athletes to arrive for this weekend's 2008 Oceania Grand Prix Series and the 2008 Oceania Championships set for next week at the newly certified Oleai Track and Field.

The French Polynesia team, comprising 11 men and a woman, arrived on Saipan after a long flight from Tahiti at 7:15am yesterday, while the two members of the New Caledonia team took the red-eye flight from Noumea and touched ground at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at 3am.

Tahiti's 110m hurdles champion and 2007 Pacific Games gold medalist Toriki Urarii appears to be the standout athlete for the French Polynesia team.

Another athlete to watch out for is Maetoa Pito in the men's discus after throwing a national record in the open event with a throw of 50.62. On the same day, Maetoa broke the Tahiti junior record with the 1.75kg discus with a throw of 53.18.

Tahiti team manager Leo Brinkfield said, "we are looking forward to a successful Championships, with four of our athletes being selected in the Oceania Grand Prix Team."

OCEANIA ATHLETICS

Team Tahiti poses with Oceania Athletics Association executive secretary Yvonne Mullins and Northern Marianas Athletics president Kurt Barnes shortly after arriving at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning.

Oceania Athletics Association executive secretary Yvonne Mullins said the two athletes from New Caledonia will be part of the team's six-man delegation to the 2008 Oceania Championships and 2008 Oceania Grand Prix.

Mullins said between 250 and 260 athletes are expected for the twin events, led by the CNMI's 31 athletes.

Australia has 24 athletes, followed by Guam (23), New Zealand (18), Papua New Guinea (15), Fiji (15), Solomon Islands (12), Cook Islands (11), Tonga (10), Federated States of Micronesia (10), Nauru (10), Vanuatu (9), American Samoa (8), Palau (8), Kiribati (8), Marshall Islands (8), Samoa (8), Tuvalu (4), and Norfolk Island (4).

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Urarii is man to beat in hurdles

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Tahiti's Toriki Urarii is favored to win the 110m hurdles of the 2008 Oceania Championships, which unfurls next week at the Oleai Track and Field.

With 10 men entered in the open men's division of the event, Urarii, who won the 100m hurdles in the 2007 Pacific Games in Samoa, appears to be the best bet to take home the gold, according to the Oceania Athletics website.

Fiji's Jone Wainiqolo finished fourth in the same Games and is expected to challenge Urarii's supremacy in the event with a seed time of 15.60 seconds.

Not that far behind are Cyprien Tehui of Tahiti, Kenneth Karosich of Guam, and Beteru Ateri of Kiribati who all have seed times in the 16-second range.

Monique Lafaialii of Samoa and Shannon McCann of Australia, meanwhile, are the women to watch in the 100m hurdles as both have times in the low-15s.

Milika Tuivanuavou of Fiji and Sharon Henry of Papua New Guinea can also pull out upsets. The former has a seed time of 16.80, while the latter is a 400m hurdles specialist who has been having her first ever serious attempt at the race.

Nine men are entered in the 400m hurdles and on paper it looks as though it will be a good race between PNG hurdlers Mowen Boino (multiple gold medal winner in the

See URARII on Page 42

13 matches slated for Trench Warz VIII-Kontra

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Two main events will headline Trench Warz VIII-Kontra set for tomorrow at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

The first main event will feature Jason "Rush" Tarkong squaring off against Myron "The Natural" San Ni-

See 13 MATCHES on Page 42

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Keli Manglona of Tinian tries to keep his balance against a charging Arnold "Killer B" Balbin. Balbin will see action against Guam's Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu in tomorrow's Trench Warz VIII-Kontra at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.